

A  
V I E W  
OF THE  
S T A T E  
OF THE  
E M P I R E,

On the DEATH of the late  
Emperor JOSEPH;

WHEREIN  
The *Pretensions* of King Charles III.  
the *Rights* of the Electors, the  
*Government* in the *Interregnum*, and  
the *Interest* of the Empire are  
consider'd.

To which are added,  
The *Golden Bull*, the *Imperial Constitutions*,  
and the *Form of Electing an Emperor*.

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LONDON: Printed for J. Morphew, near  
Stationers-Hall, 1711.



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E M P I R E, &c.

**T**HE Death of the Emperor *Joseph* will doubtless set the Politicians to work; and, in our News-Writers Phrase, cause abundance of *Speculations*. But since the Interest of *Europe* is at this Critical Juncture a Subject which requires mature Consideration, and that the Impatience of People to see on what Foot the House of *Austria* stands on the Decease of his late Imperial Majesty, will not admit of long Discussions and Inquiries, we shall therefore not enter into the Affair of the Succession, which is now entirely in the Electoral Colledge, nor Discourse of the Pretensions of the King of *Spain*, farther than they relate to those Countries which are Hereditary; but give an Account of the Rise of the House of *Austria*, and the Dominions, which, either by Election, or Succession, have for some Hundreds of Years been in that Imperial Family. We shall then

treat of the Constitution of the Empire, in the Golden Bull, the Methods of Electing an Emperor, a King of the *Romans*, and Electors, and set this Matter, which now takes up so much of People's Thoughts in *Europe*, in a clear Light; that those who look into Relations of Foreign Occurrences, may be fully appriz'd of every Thing which concerns this Important Event.

of Austria  
and the  
Rise of the  
Imperial  
Family, so  
called.

**A**USTRIA properly so call'd, is Bound-  
ed on the North with *Bohemia* and *Moravia*, on the East with *Hungary*, on the South with the *Dukedom* of *Styria*, and on the West with *Bavaria* and *Salzburg*; and is almost equally divided into Two Parts by the *Danube*. This Province was first Govern'd by *Marquisses*, who were but Officers in the beginning; but at length were made *Hereditary* by the Emperor *Henry I.* This Marquisate was afterward rais'd into a *Dukedom* by *Frederic Barbarossa* in the Year 1158; *Henry* being the first Duke, whose Nephew *Leopold* took *Richard I.* King of *England* Prisoner, in his return from *Palestin*, for whose Ransom he had as much Money as bought *Steimark* and *Lentz*, and walled *Vienna*. His Son *Frederic* was made King of *Austria* by the Emperor *Frederic II.* Anno 1225; under which Title it continu'd for sometime, and then relaps'd into that of Duke, which *Rudolphus* of *Habsburg*, at the Investiture of his Son *Albertus*, rais'd to that of *Arch-Duke*. Others say, *Charles IV.* gave that Title first to *Rudolphus* the *Witty*, and some place it lower, to the Marriage of *Philip*, Son of *Maximilian* of *Austria*, and of the Lady *Mary* of *Burgundy* with *Joan* Princess of *Spain*; but by whomsoever given, it is the only Title of *Arch-Duke* in the World. From this Country it is, that the House of *Austria* takes its Name, of which Family all the

*A View of the State of the Empire, &c.*

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the *Emperors of Germany* have been ever since 1438, and all the *Kings of Spain* since 1515. The *Arch-Duke*, besides the Right and Sovereignty in his own Dominions, has a particular Power of creating Counts and Barons all over the Empire by an Ancient Grant, with this Privilege besides, that he cannot be depriv'd of his Lands and Principalities by the Emperor himself.

This House, within Three Hundred Years, *The House* has afforded Twelve *Emperors*, Five *Kings* of *Austria*, *Spain*, and Forty other *Kings*, *Cardinals*, *Arch-Dukes* and *Dukes*. They have the Privilege of creating Gentlemen, Barons and Counts, thro' the whole Empire; and the *Emperor* cannot take away the Lands they are seiz'd of to give them to another. The *Arch-Duke of Austria* is the first Privy-Councillor of the Empire, and his Principality is not subject to Contributions, nor are they subject to the Justice of the Empire. They derive their Dignity from *Rudolphus* Count of *Hapsburg*, on the Borders of *Switzerland*; a Great Soldier, and a Valiant Commander: In whose time, an *Interregnum* of about Twenty Years happening, and the State of *Germany* being in great Confusion, the Princes of *Germany* met, and to put an End to these Calamities, resolv'd to elect an Emperor. *Wernerus*, then Bishop of *Mentz*, propos'd *Rudolphus*; the Electors of *Cologne* and *Tryers* joyn'd with him; and the Secular Princes at length complying, he was chosen Emperor, *A. D.* 1273. and crown'd the same Year at *Aix-la-Chapelle*. The Margrave of *Norimburg*, and the Elector of *Saxony*, would not give him their Votes, till he had promis'd each of them a Daughter in Marriage: The same Request was made by the Duke of *Bavaria*, who was then present, and all were granted. Thus *Rudolphus* became ally'd to the best Families of *Germany*; which, in the beginning,



was an Honour and a strong Support to that House, and made way for further Alliances. I will not be improper to observe here, that this *Rudolphus*, Count of *Habsburg*, was an *Italian* by Descent. His Ancestor *Albert* having marry'd the Daughter of *Ottone* Count of *Habsburg*, descended from the Ancient Kings of the *Franks*, and succeeded him in his Estates in *Suifert* and *Alsace*.

When he came to be Emperor by the unanimous Consent of the Empire, he had *Austria*, *Stiria*, *Marchia*, and *Carniola*, settled on his eldest Son *Albertus*; as also *Schawben* on *Rudolphus*, as a Fee Farm of the Emperor then void. In 1324, *Albertus* the Ild. had the County of *Pfirtz* in Dowry with his Wife. In 1330, *Louis* of *Bavaria*, the Emperor, Mortgag'd *Schafuse* and *Newremberg* in *Switzerland* to the House of *Austria* for Forty Thousand Crowns; and Three Years after gave it the Dutchy of *Carinthia*, then without a Prince, to be held in Fee of the Empire. In 1363, this Family became possess'd of the Country of *Tyrol*, by the Donation of *Margaret Maultaschen*. And in 1373, it bought *Friburg* in *Brisgau* for Twelve Thousand Crowns. In 1373, *Leopold* the Ild. Purchased the Earldom of *Felderkchen* in *Nebelgovia* for Six and Thirty Thousand Florins; as also *Pludentz*, *Sargan*, and *Heilegenberg*, and had the Government of *Schawben* Mortgag'd to him by the Emperor *Wenceslaus*. In 1456, the last Count of *Ceilei* being Slain, that Country was claim'd by the House of *Austria* as part of *Styria*. In 1476, *Maximilian I.* by a Marriage with the Princess *Mary*, Daughter and Sole Heiress of *Charles* the Hardy, last Duke of *Burgundy*, became in her Right possess'd of the Earldom of *Burgundy*, and the Seventeen Provinces of the *Netherlands*. In 1496, *Philip I.* marry'd *Johanna*, Daughter and Heiress

*Austria*,  
*Stiria*,  
*Carniola*,  
*Marchia*,  
vested in  
this House  
1273.  
*Pfirtz*,  
1324.  
*Carinthia*,  
1333.  
*Tyrol*,  
1363.

The Ne-  
therlands.

Spain,  
1496.

rels of *Ferdinand* King of *Spain*, and by that Match annexed all *Spain*, the Kingdom of *Naples* and *Sicily*, the Islands of *Sardinia*, *Majorca* and *Malta* to the House of *Austria*. In 1527 *Ferdinand* I. in Right of his Wife added the Kingdom of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*, with all their Dependencies, to the same Family. In *Charles* V. Reign there was an Accession of the Dutchy of *Milan* as a Fief of the Empire then void. In 1580 *Philip* the II. partly in Right of his Wife, partly by Inheritance from his Mother *Isabella*, but chiefly by force of Arms, possess'd himself of *Portugal* *Ferdinand* II. wholly reduced the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, together with *Moravia*, *Silesia* and *Lusatia*. *Joseph* I. was made King of *Hungary* by right of Inheritance December 9. 1687. Whereas till then that Kingdom was Elective. But more than this the House of *Austria* has for many Ages now past enjoyed the *Imperial Dignity*, which scarce, as I said before, can be transfer'd into any other House, without apparent Danger to the whole Empire. It is also in Expectation of the Dutchy of *Wirtenburg* falling to it.

When the last Emperor *Joseph* then Archduke of *Austria*, was in 1687 Crowned King of *Hungary*, the States consented that the Crown should be Hereditary in the *Austrian* Family, and gave up an Article of the Declaration of King *Andrew*, by virtue of which each of the three Estates had a right to oppose the King when he contravened the Laws of the Kingdom without being reputed Offenders for taking up Arms and not submitting to his Orders.

Of the Cities and Provinces above-mention'd many have been lost by the Injury of Time. In the 14th Century, the Counties of *Habsburg*, *Baden* and *Kiburg* were taken from it by the *Switz*. In 1415 it lost the greatest Part of the

*Bohemia*,  
*Moravia*,  
*Silesia*,  
*Hungary*,  
*Dalmatia*,  
*Croatia*,  
*Slavonia*,  
1527.  
*Milan*,  
1530.

*Bohemia*  
*Hereditary* 1520.  
*Hungary*,  
1687.

*Losses.*

Dutchy of *Schawben*. In 1529 the *Turks* took many places in *Hungary*. In 1572. Seven Provinces of the *Netherlands* withdrew themselves from *Spain*, and the *French* have made themselves Masters of a great part of the rest. In 1640 *Portugal* Revolted and set up a King of its own. In 1648 all *Alsatia* was set over to the *French* with *Brisac* and *Suntgam*, by a Treaty of Peace at *Osnaburg*. In 1659 the *French* gained a great part of the *Spanish Netherlands* by the *Pyrenean* Peace. By the Treaty of *Nimeguen* 1678 *Friburg* was given up to the *French*, as also the County of *Burgundy*, and all those that yet remain'd in *Artois*. In 1684 the *French* made themselves Masters of the Dutchy of *Luxemburg*, and the City of that Name. In 1686 the Principality of *Swibuse*, with the City of that Name, was deliver'd up to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the *French* King breaking the Truce, took *Philipsburg* on the *Rhine* from this Family, November 1. 1688, O. S. but this and many other Places the *French* had taken were deliver'd up, or an Equivalent given by the Treaty of *Reswick*.

The  
Italian  
Fiefs.

I shall now give an Account of all the Imperial Feudataries of greatest Note in *Italy*; and begin with the State of *Milan*, the Instalment of which Dutchy as well as of the State of *Siena*, the Catholick King receives from the Emperor, giving the Subinstalment of the latter to the Great Duke of *Tuscany*, whose Highness is also accounted amongst the Emperor's Vassals for *Ponte-Mole*, and other Feuds which he possesses in the *Lunigiana*: The Duke of *Savoy*, in respect of that Dutchy, is comprehended amongst the *German* Princes, with whom he likewise concurs in the Contribution of the Monthly *Roman* Payment as much as any Elector, but as Prince of *Piedmont* and Duke of

of



of *Avosta* he is reputed an *Italian* Potentate, Feudatory of the Empire.

The House of *Gonzaga*, as well for its ancient Extraction, as for the Quality, and Quantity of its Princes, that under the Protection of the Imperial Eagle flourish in *Italy*, is very conspicuous; the Chief of it is the Duke of *Mantoua* and *Monferrat* both Imperial Feuds; the next to him is the Duke of *Guastalla*, and the rest are the Duke of *Sabioneta* Prince of *Bozzolo*, with the Princes of *Castiglione*, *Solferrino* and *Vescovato*, as also the Count of *Novellara*, all installed by *Cesar*.

The Duke of *Modena*, of the most ancient and illustrious Family of *Este*, derives from the Emperor the Sovereignty he enjoys over *Modena*, *Reggio*, *Carpi* and *Coreggio*, of which Feuds his Imperial Majesty grants him the Instalment together with that of *Rovigo*.

The Duke of *Mirandola* of the Most Noble House of *Pica* of the *Saxon* Blood, does likewise honour the high Dominion of the *Roman* Empire.

The same does the Duke of *Massa* of the House of *Cibo* that came from *Rome* originally.

The most noble Family of *Malaspina* pays also Homage to *Cesar*, for the Feuds his Majesty hath in the *Lunigiana*, where the most principal Branch thereof flourishes in the *Marquis de Malaspina de Fosdinovo* and *Gragnola*, after whom are accounted the *Marquis of Podenzana*, with those of *Suvero*, *Olivola*, *Liciana*, *Mulazza*, *la Bastia*, *Treschietto*, *Villafranca* and others.

In the same *Lunigiana* there is (beside the abovementioned Feuds of the said *Malaspina's*) *Ponte-mole*, *Fivizzano*, and others possess'd by the Great Duke of *Tuscany*; *Treggiana* granted to the *Marquis Corsini* of *Florence* and *Malgrato* adjudged to Count *Stanga* of *Cremona*.

In

*A View of the State of the Empire, &c.*

In *Lombardy* there is the Dukedom of *Desara* belonging to the House of *Tizzona* of *Vercelli*; the County of *Rocca d' Arazzo* belonging to the Lords *Osafsky*; the County of *Macagn* to the House of *Mandella* of *Milan*; the County of *Ruolo* to the Family of *Sessi* of *Reggio*; and the County of *Fridchi* to the House of *Mazzetti*, and that of *Gatold* in the Dominion of *Mantona*, with *Retegno* to Prince *Trivultio*.

In *Liguria* there is the Marquisate of *Zuccarello*, the Instalment whereof belongs to the Republick of *Genova*; that of *Final* to the Catholick King; the Marquisate of *Turiglia* to Prince *D'Oria*; the Marquisate of *Pallavicino* to the Family of *Botta* of *Pavia*; the Marquisates of *Arquata*, and *Roccaforte* to *Philip*, and *Neapolion Spinola*; the Marquisate of *spigno* to the House of *Asinari*; the County of *Tassarolo* to another *Spinola*; that of *Millesimo* to the House of *Caretti*; that of *St. Christopher* to *Charles D'Oria*; *Savignone* to the House of *Centurioni*, *Francavilla*, *Campi*, *Mongrardino*, *Vergagn*, and other Lords of *Spinola*; *Moglia* to the family of *Scarampi*.

Pretensions.

The Pretensions of the House of *Austria* are, (1.) To the Dutchy of *Burgundy*, which belong'd of Right to *Maximilian I.* as having Married *Mary* Daughter and sole Heiress of *Burgundy*; but the then King of *France* refused to invest him on Pretence of the Salique Law. (2.) To *Transilvania*, *Moldavia*, *Walachia* and *Bulgaria*, as Dependances on the Kingdom of *Hungary*. (3.) To the County of *Habsburg*, *Baden* and *Kiburg*. (4.) To the City of *Schaffhuse*. (5.) To the Kingdom of *Portugal*, as having actually Revolted from that of *Spain*. (6.) To the Du chy of *Luxemburg*.

The Titles of the Emperor.

The Emperor's present Titles are, Elect of the *Romans*, and Emperor of *Germany*; always **August**

August, King of *Hungaria, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavania, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Marquis of Moravia, Duke of Luxemburg, of the Upper and Lower Silesia, of Wirtemberg, and Teck, Prince of Swevia, Count of Habsburg, of Tyrol, Friburg and Geritia, Marquis of the Sacred Roman Empire, of Burgoin, of the Upper and Lower Lusatia, Lord of the Marquisate of Slavonia, of the Port of Naon, and the Salt Mines.*

As we have said before, this House owes its Original to the Earls of *Habsburg*, whereof *Rudolphus* the Fourth Earl was the first German Emperor of that Family; he was Born May the 1st. 1218. and brought up in the Court of the Emperor *Frederick II.* Afterward made Lord High Marshal in the Court of *Ottocur* King of *Bohemia.* In 1273. he was chosen Emperor by the Unanimous Consent of the Princes of the Empire, and Crown'd the same Year at *Aix la Chapelle.* He freed *Germany* from Robbers, and had *Austria* settled on his Eldest Son *Albert*, the first Archduke of *Austria*, Born July 29. 1242.

*The Genealogy of the House of Austria. Rudolphus I.*

II. He was surnamed *Monoculus*, and was the only Propagator of the *Austrian* Family, who having vanquish'd the Emperor *Adolphus* of *Nassau*, set the Imperial Diadem on his own Head. His Empress was *Elizabeth* Daughter of the Duke of *Carinthia*, Earl of *Tyrol* and *Geritia*, by whom he had One and twenty Children, but was at last killed by his own Nephew Son of his Brother *Rudolphus*, who died in a Convent in *Italy*, whither he fled for Refuge: Of the many Children he left only *Albert* surnam'd the *Wise*, preserved the *Austrian* Family; but the Empire fell from it in the next Succession, *Henry* Count of *Luxemburg* being chosen Emperor A. D. 1308.

*Albert the First.*

III. His



Albert  
the Second  
of Austria.

III. His Son *Albert II.* quitting his Cloister, Married the Lady *Joan* sole Heiress to the Earldom of *Psirte*, and departed this Life in 1338, leaving two surviving Sons; *Albert the Third*, and *Leopold the Second*.

Albert  
the Third  
of Austria.

*Albert the Third* in the Division of his Fathers Inheritance between him and his Brother *Leopold*, had *Austria*, *Stiria* and *Carinthia* for his Part, in which he was succeeded by his Son *Albert the Fourth* surnamed the *Patient*, who by *Joan* Daughter of *Albert Duke of Bavaria* had *Albert the Fifth* a very Fortunate Prince, who in the space of one Year was inaugurated in the *Imperial*, *Bohemian* and *Hungarian Crowns*, Anno 1438. One Hundred and Thirty Years after it had been out of the *Austrian Family*; before which the *Marquisate of Moravia*, had been given him in Dowry with his Wife *Elizabeth* Daughter to the Emperor *Sigismund*, whom he succeeded in the Empire by the Name of *Albert the Second*; but Reigned scarce two Years and left only a Posthumous Son, who died in his Childhood.

Leopold  
the Second

V. His Brother *Leopold* had several Children, of whom his Son *Ernest Ferrens* was the Preserver of the *Austrian Race* for his Son.

Frederick  
the Fourth  
and Sixth  
of the Em-  
pire.

VI. *Frederick the Fourth*, and the Sixth Emperor of that Name, was Elected Emperor 1440. His Empress, *Eleanor* Daughter of *Edward King of Portugal*, bore him five Children. The Two that survived were *Cunigunda* given in Marriage to *Albert*: And

Maximi-  
lian the  
First of  
Austria.

*Maximilian the First*, in whom the House of *Austria* was preserved. He was born at *Naples* in the Year 1459. In 1486 he was elected King of the *Romans*, his Father *Frederick* being yet alive. In his Reign *Luther's Reformation* began, the *Imperial Chamber* was instituted, the Empire divided into Circles, *Vienna* restor'd to the

the House of *Austria*, and *Burgundy* and the *Low Countries* annex'd to the same Family. His Wives were *Mary* Daughter and sole Heiress of *Charles* Duke of *Burgundy*, and after her *Blanche Mary* Daughter of *Galeazzo* Duke of *Milan*, by whom he had *Margaret*, who after many turns of Fortune was made Governess of the *Netherlands*, and *Philip* of whom more anon, *Maximilian* full of Days and Content, piously and peaceably ended his Days on the 12th of *January* 1519.

VII. *Philip* the First stiled *the Delight of Man-* Philip I.  
of Spain.  
*kind*, was born 1478. At Seventeen his Father gave him the Government of the *Low Countries* and *Burgundy*, In 1496 he married the Princess *Johanna* Eldest Daughter and Heiress of *Ferdinand* King of *Spain*, in whose Right he became immediately possess'd of the Kingdoms of *Aragon* and *Castile*; but he died of a *Dysentery* in the Year 1519. leaving a fair Issue behind him by his Queen *Johanna*. His Two Sons were *Charles* the Fifth, and *Ferdinand* the First; between which two Princes there was a Division of the Provinces; whence the House of *Austria* became likewise divided into the *Spanish* and *German Lines*; but upon this Irrevocable Condition, that while there was any remaining Branches of the Male-Lines of either House, they should reciprocally succeed each other by Confraternity, without the Interposition of Female Pretenders, unless the Males of both Houses were totally extinguished. They also add, that this League has been since renewed by all the succeeding Emperors and Kings of *Spain*; so that the Crown of *Spain* is but *Fides Commissa*, which ought to have returned to the Emperor by the Death of *Charles* II. without Issue.

House of  
Austria  
divided  
into the  
Spanish  
and Ger-  
man Lines.

*The Spanish Line.*

*Charles* the Fifth King of *Spain* Founder of this Line, was Elected Emperor of *Germany* at *Frankfort*, *June* 29. 1519. and was Crown'd at *Aix la Chapelle* in *October* 1520. After a long and glorious Reign he Abdicated the Empire, and left *Spain* to his Son *Philip*, whom he had by *Isabel* of *Portugal*.

Philip II.  
of Spain.

IX. This *Philip* the Second was Born 1543. made King of *Sicily* and *Naples* 1543, King of *England* and *Ireland*, in right of his Wife *Mary*, Daughter of *Henry* the Eighth, Lord of the *Low Countries*, and Duke of *Milan* 1555, and last of all King of *Spain* 1556. His first Queen was *Mary*, Daughter of *John* the Third King of *Portugal*; his Second *Mary* Queen of *England*, his Third *Isabella*, Daughter of *Henry* II. King of *France*; and his Fourth, *Anne*, Daughter of the Emperor *Maximilian* the Second. By the first he had Prince *Charles*, Born 1565, deceas'd in Prison 1568. By the Third *Isabella Clara Eugenia*, Born 1566, Married to *Albert* the Seventh of *Austria*, Deceas'd 1633, and *Catharine* Born 1567, and married to *Charles Emanuel* Duke of *Savoy* on the 11th of *March* 1585. By the last a Son of his own Name.

Philip III.  
of Spain.

*Philip* the Third, Born 1578, in whose Issue the *Spanish* Line is continued. He Succeeded his Father in his Kingdoms in 1598. His Queen was *Margaret*, Daughter to *Charles* Archduke of *Austria*, who bore him Eight Children, whereof Three died in their Infancy, the rest were,  
1. *Anna Maria Mauritia*, Married to *Louis* the Thirteenth King of *France* 1615. 2. *Mary Anne*, Married to the Emperor *Ferdinand* the Third in 1631. 3. *Ferdinand* Cardinal and Governor of the *Netherlands*. 4. *Philip* the Fourth, who succeeded



succeeded his Father 1621. He had two Wives *Elizabeth*, Daughter to *Henry* the Fourth King of *France*, who bore him Eleven Children, but all of them either died Young, or in their Infancy, except *Maria Theresia*, who was Married to *Louis* the Fourteenth the present *French* King in 1660, deceased July 30. 1683; his Second Queen was *Mary Anne*, Daughter to the Emperor *Ferdinand* the Third by whom he had Issue:

1. *Margaret Theresia*, Married to *Leopold* the late Emperor in 1666.

*Charles* the Second, Born November 6. 1661, *Charles* who Succeeded in that Kingdom, at the Death of his Father *Philip* in the Year 1665. In 1679 he took to Wife *Mary Louisa*, Daughter of *Philip* Duke of *Orleans*; who dying without Issue 1689, he was Married to *Maria Anna*, Daughter of *Philip William* Elector *Palatine*, who is yet living, a Widow: For King *Charles* having led a very sickly, crazy, unactive Life, he departed this Life the First of November A. D. 1700, and leaving no Issue behind him, he made a Will, [or rather one was made for him] that has laid the Foundation of the present War. Wherefore I shall take Leave to shew very briefly how this pretended Will was procur'd and publish'd.

'Tis Notorious to all the World, that *Charles* the last King of *Spain* made a Will, wherein he declar'd the Archduke his Successor, some considerable time before his Death, and the Succession of the Crown was so entirely invested in him, that there was no manner of Provision made for the *French* Line, with which the Court of *Spain* was well satisfied, and there was no other Interest made in Publick nor any Heir talk'd of, but he who was already named: Thus it continued a long time before the King died, and might have done so still, if Cardinal *Portocarrero*,

*rarero*, gain'd by *French* Gold and *French* Artifices, had not impos'd another upon him. This Cardinal brought in the *French* Interest and Faction, whisper'd the King the Injury that would be done to *France* if the Succession was given from her, and that there was no Right (notwithstanding the Treaty of *St. John de Luz*, and the Renunciation of of the *French* King and Queen) but what was absolutely in the Children of that Marriage. The bigotted King being more afraid of doing a thing that hazarded the Welfare of his Soul, than Consenting to a Project that might undo all the Kingdoms and Countries round about him, listened to the Cardinal, and gave him hopes of Succeeding.

His last  
Will.

While this Project was depending at *Madrid*, Measures were concerted elsewhere for the Security of the rest of *Europe*, by preventing the Crown of *Spain* from falling into any one Monarchy, whether that of *Germany* or *France*; then having agreed upon Terms according to the most reasonable way of securing the Peace of *Europe*, they propos'd them to *France* and the Emperor. The *French* King doubtful of his Success at *Madrid*, consented to what was offer'd him, and seeing no Probability of getting all, was glad to be content with a part: The Emperor on the contrary, well assured of his Right, and not doubting but his Son would be declar'd Successor, refused to engage in that Partition, which was the dismembring of an Empire, that would one Day be actually his; and in this Assurance stood out to the last; but now comes the great Turn, the unexpected Catastrophe of the *Spanish* Policy.

The *Cardinal Arch-Bishop*, being of great Credit in the Court, and with the weak and credulous King, forms a Confederacy to help him to turn the Stream into that Channel; and in the very  
Moment

&c.

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Moment of Death, when the King was given up to Contemplations of another Life, and was willing to forget every thing that might bring back his Mind to Earth again, this *False Prelate* came in with a *Will of his own making*, and told the King plainly, he would not give him his last Benedictions, till he had revoked his first Will, and signed that. The weak King now upon the Verge of Life, consents to any thing, rather than be deny'd *Absolution*, and to procure that, sign'd the Will for the Duke of *Anjou*, which when he had done, the Cardinal told him him *he might die when he pleas'd*. So he shut his Eyes and departed.

What was done by the Emperor *Leopold* to recover the *Spanish* Monarchy, what by the Confederates in favour of his Son the Archduke *Charles*, is fresh in our Memories, and we shall therefore proceed to the *German* Line of the House of *Austria*.

*The German Line.*

X. Let us now speak of the other Son of *Philip* the First Author of the *German* Line. His Name was *Ferdinand* Born in *Spain* 1503. Crown'd King of *Hungary* and *Bohemia* in the Right of his Wife, 1527. Elected King of the *Romans* 1531, and Emperor 1556. His Empress was *Anne* Daughter to *Vladislaus* King of *Hungary*, Sister to *Louis* the Infant. He died 1563, in the 60th Year of his Age, and left for his Successor

*Ferdinand  
the First*

XI. *Maximilian* the Second, who was Crown'd King of *Bohemia* September 20. 1562. and of *Hungary*, Sept. 8. in the following Year. He was likewise Elected King of the *Romans* the same Year, and Emperor 1564. His Wife was *Mary* Daughter of the Emperor *Charles V.* by whom he had fifteen Children. His Eldest Son *Rudol-*

*Maximilian the  
Second*

B

*phus*



*Matthias  
the First.*

*Ferdinand  
the III. of  
Austria  
and the II.  
of the Em-  
pire.*

*phus* the Second, Born June 18. 1552. Succeeded his Father in the Empire 1576. in the 25th Year of his Age. He was never Married, and dying the 16th of January 1611, left the Principal Dignity and Dominions to his Brother *Matthias* the First, Born 1557. and elected Emperor at *Frankfort*, June the 13th 1612. This Prince dying without Issue was Succeeded by his Cousin *Ferdinand* the Second Emperor of that Name, Son of *Charles* Duke of *Stiria*, Son of *Ferdinand* the I. He was twice Married; First to *Mary Anne* Daughter of *William V.* Duke of *Bavaria*, and Twenty Two Years after, to *Elianor* of *Mantua* Duke *Vincent's* Daughter; by the First, he had Two Daughters, that lived to be of Age, viz. *Mary Anne* Married to *Maximilian* Elector of *Bavaria*, Deceased 1665. And *Cecilia Renata* to *Casmire* King of *Poland*, who died March 13. 1644; as also Two Sons, viz. *Ferdinand* the Third, Born July 13. 1608. And *Leopold William*, Born 1612, Elected Bishop of *Strasburg* and *Passau*. This Emperor died An. Dom. 1637.

XV. *Ferdinand* the Third of the Empire and the Fourth of *Austria* Succeeded in the Government of the Empire, upon the Death of his Father, having been Crowned King of *Hungary* 1625, of *Bohemia* in 1627, of the *Romans*. 1636, and last of all Emperor in 1637, by the Name of *Ferdinand III.* His first Wife was *Mary Anne* Daughter of *Philip III.* King of *Spain*, who deceased May 13. 1646; His Second was *Maria Leopoldina* Daughter to the Arch-Duke *Leopold V.* And his Third was *Eleonora Gonzaga* Daughter of *Charles* Duke of *Mantua*, whom he left a Widow April 2. 1657, and she also died in 1686.

He

He had Issue by these Princeesses as followeth. First,

*Ferdinand* Born September 8. 1633, Crowned King of *Bohemia* 1646, of *Hungary* 1647; of the *Romans* 1653, being the Fourth King of that Name; but died the Year following. 2. *Mary Anne*, Born October 12. 1634, Married to *Philip IV.* King of *Spain* November 7. 1649. 3. *Philip Augustus*, Born 1637, deceased 1639. 4. *Maximilian Thomas*, Born 1638, deceased the Year following. 5. *Leopoldus, Ignatius Franciscus, Balthazer, Josephus, Felicianus*, Born June 9. 1640, the late Emperor. 6. *Mary*, Born and Dead the same Year, viz. 1646. 7. *Charles Joseph*, Bishop of *Passau*, Great Master of the *Teutonic Order*, and Bishop of *Breslaw*, Born 1649, deceased 1664. 8. *Trevesa Maria Josepha*, Born 1652, deceased the Year following. 9. *Eleanora Maria*, Born May the 21. 1653, Married to *Michael* King of *Poland* in 1670, and after his decease, Married to the Famous Warrior *Charles* Duke of *Lorain* in 1678. 10. *Maria Anna Josepha* Born 1654, Married to *John William* Hereditary Prince *Palatine* October 15. 1678, deceased April 7. 1689. And 11. *Ferdinand Aloisius*, Born 1657, deceased the Year following.

XVI. *Leopold* the First Emperor of that Name, Inaugurated King of *Hungary* at *Presburg* June 27. 1655. of *Bohemia* at *Prague*, August 2. 1656, and Emperor at *Francfort* July 22. 1658. In 1666, he Married *Margaret Theresa*, Daughter of *Philip the IV.* King of *Spain*. who died March 20. 1673. After her Decease he Married *Claudia Felicitas* Daughter to the Arch-Duke *Ferdinand* October 15. in the same Year; but she likewise died April the 8. 1676. He proceeded to a Third

Choice who was *Eleanora Magdalena Teresa*, Eldest Daughter of *Philip William* Duke of *Newburg* and *Electress Palatine*, and was Married to her *January 6. 1677*; by the First Venter he had Issue, 1. *Ferdinand Wenceslaus*, Born *Septem. 28. 1677*, deceased *January 1668*. 2. *Maria Antonia Josepha*; Married to *Maximilian Emanuel*, Elector of *Bavaria 1686*. 3. *John* Born and Dead the same Year. 4. *Mariana Josepha*, who was Born and died the same Year *1672*. By the Second, he had only Two Daughters, both short liv'd; but by the present Empress, he hath had *Joseph, James, Ignatius, John, Anthony, Eustachius*, the Joy and Hope of his Parents, Born *July 16. Old Stile, 1678*, Crowned King of *Hungary 1688*. *Mary Elisabeth Licia Theresa*, Born *December 13. 1680*. 3. *Leopold, Joseph, Philip, William, Anthony, Erasmus*, Born *1682*, deceased *August 4. 1684*. 4. *Mary, Anne, Josepha, Regina*, Born *September 7. 1683*. 5. *Mary Teresa*, Born *August 22. 1684*. 6. *Charles, Francis, Joseph, Wenceslaus, Balthazar, John, Anthony, Ignatius*, Born *October 1. 1685, Old Stile*. 7. *Maria, Josepha, Collecta, Antonia*, Born *March 6. 1687*. And 8. *Anna, Josepha, Antonia, Magdalena, Gabriela*, Born *March 26. 1689, Old Stile*. *Joseph*, who was chosen King of the Romans in *1690*, Succeeded his Father *A. D. 1705*. He Married *Wilhelma Maria*, Daughter of *John Frederick* Duke of *Hannover*, in *1699*, and Died the *16th of April 1711*, leaving behind him Issue, Two Daughters only; and the Succession of all his Hereditary, and very probably his Imperial Dominions, to *Charles III. King of Spain, &c.*

Of the Em-  
pire the 10  
Circles.

The Empire is divided into ten Circles, and in these are comprehended the Electors, Princes, Earls, Nobility, and the free Cities



ties of *Germany*; which, enjoying the Title of States, at this present, govern their respective Districts, not to enumerate the Princes and Imperial Feudataries of *Italy*, who, by the Exemptions to them granted at the Installments of their Estates and Feuds, remain immediately subject unto the Emperor's Person; but are not in the least obliged to conform themselves to any Laws or Statutes that are enacted in the Imperial Diets, nor to pay their Quota towards any of those Taxes or Impositions that are rais'd by the several States of *Germany* in those Assemblies.

Among the abovementioned Circles, that of the *Lower Rhine*, otherwise called the *Electoral*, enjoyeth the Precedence; that is to say, the Archbishops of *Mentz*, *Triers* and *Colen*, and the Count Palatine of *Heidelberg*.

The Circle of *Upper Saxony* containeth the State of the Elector of that Name; as likewise the Electorate of *Brandenburg*, with the two *Pomerania's*, the Princes of the House of *Saxony*, of *Altenburg*, *Coburg*, *Weymar*, *Gotha*, and *Eysenack*, with the Prince of *Anbalt*, all these of the Protestant Religion; the Earls of *Mansfelt*, *Suartenburg*, *Stolberg*, and *Gleicken*, *Lutherans*.

The *Austrian* Circle, containeth the Provinces of the Upper, Lower, and Inner *Austria*, and the Bishoprick of *Trent*, and *Beiffanone*.

The Circle of *Bavaria*, comprehends the Archbishoprick of *Ratisbone*, *Passaw*, and *Frisingen*, the Prince *Præpositus* of *Berchtolstat*, the Dukedom of the two *Bavaria's*, with the Upper Palatinate, and Langraveship of *Luchtenberg*, lately enjoy'd by the *Bavarian* Elector;

B ;

besides

besides the Palatinate of *Newberg*, with the Earls of *Ortemburg*, *Stauffen*, and the Free City of *Ratisbone*.

The *Upper Circle* of the *Rhine*, comprehends the four Bishops of *Wormes*, *Spire*, *Strasburg*, and *Basil*, with the Prince Abbot of *Fulden*; the Palatines of *Deuxponts*, *Spanheim*, *Veldentz*, and *Lauteregh*; the Landgraves of *Hesse-Cassel*, and *Darmstat*; the Dukedom of *Savoy*, and Earldoms of *Nomeny* in *Lorain*; the Prince of *Aremberg*; the Earls of *Nassaw*, *Sarbruck*, *Salm*, *Hannau*, *Leininghen*, *Waldeck*, with the Rhinegraves; the ten Cities of *Alsatia*, those of *Francfort*, *Wormes*, *Spire*, *Landaw*, and all *Wetteraw*.

That of the *Lower Saxony*, contains the Archbishopricks of *Magdeburg*, and of *Bremen*, now reduc'd into secular Dukedom; the first belonging to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the other to the Crown of *Sweden*, by Virtue of the *Osnabrug* Peace; likewise the Bishoprick of *Hildersheim*, the Dutchy of *Brunswick*, of *Mecklenburg*, of *Lawenburg*, and of *Holstein*; the County of *Blanckemburg*, and the Free Cities of *Bremen*, *Lubeck*, *Hamburg*, *Goslar*, and others.

In the *Franconian Circle*, there are the Bishops of *Bamberg*, and of *Wurtzburg*, who is also Duke of the *East Saxony*, and of *Eichstadt* with the Grand Master of the *Teutonic Order*; the two Marquisses of *Brandenburg*, *Culmpach*, *Onelsbach*, vulgarly denominated from the Places of their Residence; the Princes of *Barreith* and *Ansbach*; the Earls of *Erpach*, *Hoenloe*, *Verthaim*, *Swartzemberg*, with the Free Cities of *Norimberg*, *Rotenburg*, *Sweinfort* and others, which are all *Lutherans*, except the *Ecclesiasticks*, and some few *Seculars*.

The

The Circle of *Suevia* or *Schwaben*. hath the Bishops of *Ausburg*, *Constance*, and *Coire*, with seventeen Abbots, and six Abbeſſes, the two Marquiſſes of *Baden* and *Durlack*, the Duke of *Wirtemberg*, about fifteen Earldoms, and thirty Free Cities.

The Circle of *Westphalia*, containeth the Bishops of *Leige*, of *Paderborne*, of *Munſter*, and of *Oſnabrug*, this laſt was lately in Poſſeſſion of a Lutheran Biſhop, of the Houſe of *Brunſwick*; but now of a Popiſh Prince of *Lorain*, and ſo is to remain alternately in a Papiſt and a Proteſtant. It alſo comprehends the ſeculariſed Biſhopricks of *Minden*, *Werden*, *Halberſtat*, *Razeburg*, *Swerin*, and *Camin*, poſſeſſed ſome by the Elektor of *Brandenburg*, ſome by the King of *Sweden*, and ſome by other Princes: Beſides, there are reckoned in this Circle the Dukedoms of *Fuliers*, *Cleves*, and *Berghen*, the Princes of *Naſſaw*, and Eaſt *Friezeland*, about fifteen Earldoms, and the Cities of *Colen*, or *Dortmond*, and others.

The Circle of *Burgundy* takes in the Archbiſhop of *Besancon*, the Provinces of *Burgundy*, *Brabant*, and others, which acknowledge the Jurisdiction of the Emperor, though *Burgundy* is now no more ſummoned.

Every one of the aforementioned Circles hath its Directors, and Chiefs of the Militia choſen by the Majority of Votes of the States of the Circle aſſembled; and moſt commonly they are one Eccleſiaſtick, and one Secular of the beſt Rank; unto whom are directed from the Emperor, or from the general Diets, all Orders and Commiſſions; and to whom it belongs, in caſe of any preſſing Extremity to ſummon the circular Diets, receive the Collections, bring the Soldiery together,

*Directors  
of the Cir-  
cles.*



together, and remedy all Inconveniences that may arise. Into these Assemblies are admitted not only the Ecclesiasticks, and Secular Princes, with the Earls, but the free Nobility also; viz. a Deputy for every Prince of the said Nobility (in the same Form as the Abbots and Earls use to appear in the general Diets) who in these Circular Assemblies enjoy the Privileges of sitting and voting; and in them care is taken to provide for all Necessities of the Circle: And Matters subordinate to the highest Tribunals of the Empire, and to the universal Diets, are here also debated.

*Diets.*

These universal Diets ought to be notified by the Emperor himself, six Months before the prefixed time; who transmits the Dispatches thereof to the Elector of *Mayence* Great Chancellor of *Germany*; whose Office it is to give immediate Notice thereof to all his Brother Electors, and to the forementioned Directors of the Circle, and these to all the Members and States of their respective Jurisdictions; specifying unto them, the Place where the Diet is to assemble, which ought to be a free City; and this by Virtue of the *Golden Bull*, and confirmed by the Emperor *Charles V.* who ordered that the Circular Assemblies should join and meet in one of the said free Cities, as 'tis punctually observed by Seven of the said Circles; only it must be remarked, that the *Electoral*, and *Austrian*, and the *Burgundian* are exempted from it.

In the same general Diets, beside the Provisions which are made relating to the publick Good, there are new Laws instituted, and the old ones interpreted: 'Tis here that all Resolutions of Peace or War are made; that all Delinquents, whether Electors, Princes, or States are condemned by the Imperial Ban, new Princes  
admitted

admitted to the Session, and Vote ; the Grievances in Ecclesiastick and Civil Matters decided ; and in fine, all Matters, wherein the publick Good is concerned, are here concerted and established: And therefore, the Emperor himself is bound, whensoever Sickness or some unavoidable Necessity does not hinder him, to appear personally ; at least, at the Propositions which in his own Name, ought to be made by the Vice-Chancellor of the Empire, to the States assembled. But this is now neglected, and as Matters are managed at present, the Electors (he of *Mentz* excepted) and other Princes are, upon any small light Excuses dispenced from this Trouble, supplying their Absence by sending other Deputies and Ministers to the Diet.

The Order which is kept, in the making the said Propositions, is as followeth. First, all this Body assembleth in a great Hall, and there the Emperor, assisted on one side by the great Marshal, and on the other by the Vice-Chancellor of the Empire, takes the first Place under an elevated and Majestical Throne ; the Electors of *Mentz*, *Bavaria*, and *Saxony* sit on the right Hand ; and on the Left, those of *Colen*, *Brandenburg*, and the *Palatine* ; and in the middle, diametrically over against the Emperor, the Elector of *Triers*: At a little Distance there stand leaning on two small Tables, different one from the other, the Directors of *Mentz* for the Electoral College, and those of *Salzburg*, or of *Austria* for the other Princes ; and these set down in Writing all that is discours'd in that Assembly.

The King of *Bohemia*, though he enjoys the Prerogative of Elector, yet not being accounted into the Number among the States, abstains from appearing at the Diets, and only comes to the Congress, where the Election of the King of the *Romans* is under Debate ; wherein he takes the  
first

first Place among the Secular Electors ; and, in case of Discrepancy of Votes, is the Arbitrator or Umpire.

Below the aforesaid Electors, there are two Banks or Seats on both Sides of the Hall ; one for the Ecclesiastick Princes, and the other for the Secular ; on the first sit the Archduke of *Austria*, the Duke of *Burgundy*, and the Archbishop of *Salzburg* ; who, in all the Sessions, wherein the Discussion of new Matters is propos'd, alternately take, as well in Publick as Private, their Precedence in the College and Order of Voting : Now *Burgundy* being always annex'd to *Austria*, whenever it so falls out that *Salzburg* is to give place to *Austria*, he ought to sit under *Burgundy*. After these, follow the Archbishops of *Bezancon*, the great Master of the *Tentonick Order*, and the Bishops of *Bamburg*, *Wormes*, *Wurtzburg*, *Archstat*, *Strasburg*, *Constance*, *Auspurg*, and *Hildersheim*, *Paderborne*, *Ratisbone*, *Passaw*, *Trent*, *Basil*, *Liege*, *Coire*, and *Munster* ; after them the Abbot of *Fulden*, the Superintendent of *Campiduno*, *Eluanghen*, *Berchtols gaden*, *Brin*, *Stable*, and *Corsey* ; and at last the ordinary Abbots, that are not Princes of the *Swabian Circle*, and that of the *Rhine*.

All the abovesaid Episcopal Churches are provided of their several Chapters, which have the *Jus eligendi*, but under a prefix'd Time ; which being expired, and the Canons not come to any final Agreement, the Court of *Rome* taketh it into Hand, and the Elected is bound to receive his Confirmation from his Holiness, and the Installment from the Emperor : Almost all of them have Jurisdiction both in Spirituals and Temporals, and if not in the City it self, at least in the Diocess ; and no Canons are qualified for the passive Voice, unless they can shew their Nobility for three or four Descents, both on Father's and



and Mother's Side; yet the Statutes of the Metropolitan Chapter of *Colen*, require those Proofs only of titular Houses of Earls, and Princes of *Germany*: But such as are admitted only to the active Voice, 'tis sufficient if they are of ordinary Families, and Doctors of Law or Theology.

On the second Bank or Seat, at present the Duke of *Bavaria* takes the first place, and then the Administrators of the former Archbishoprick of *Magdeburg*, who is a Relation of the Elector of *Saxony*, and after his Death the Elector of *Brandenburg* will obtain this Place in Quality of Duke of the same; then follow the Houses Palatine of *Lantern*, *Simeren*, *Newburg*, the Dukedom of *Bremen* belonging to the Crown of *Sweden*, the Palatine Duke of *Znaybrug*, and that of *Lantereck*; the Dukes of *Saxony*, *Altemburg*, *Coburg*, *Weimar*, *Gotha*, and *Eysenach*; after them the two Marquisses of *Culmbach*, and *Onolzbach*, of the Electoral House of *Brandenburg*; the Dukes of *Brunswick*, divided into Four Votes, *Zell*, *Grubenhagen*, *Calemberg*, and *Wolfenbuttl*; the Principality of *Halberstat*, appertaining to the Elector of *Brandenburg*; the Dukedom of *Wirtemberg*; the Principality of *Verden*, annex'd by the Treaty of *Munster* to the Crown of *Sweden*; the two Marquisses of *Baden* and *Durlack*, who likewise vote for his Principality of *Hochberg*; the two Landgraves of *Hesse Cassel* and *Darmstat*; the lower *Pomerania*, belonging to *Sweden*, and the upper to *Brandenburg*; the two Dukes of *Mecklenburg*, *Swerin*, and *Gustrau*; all which Houses, beginning from *Wirtemberg*, alternately take Precedence in Imitation of *Austria* and *Saltzburg*. Then follow the Duke of *Saxe-Lauenburg*; the Principality of *Minden*, belonging to *Brandenburg*; the Dukedom of *Holstein*, under the King of *Denmark*; the Landgraveship of *Leucktenberg*, possessed by *Bavaria*; the

the Duke of *Savoy*, the Prince of *Anhalt*; the Earldom of *Henneberg*, possessed by the Palatine of *Nemburg*; the Principality of *Hirsfeldt*, given to *Hesse Cassel*; the Earl of *Mompelgard*, of the House of the Dukes of *Wirttemberg*; the County of *Nomeney*, belonging to the Duke of *Lorain*; and the Princes of *Aremberg*, *Hoenzollern*, *Eggenberg*, *Lobcowitz*, *Averspergh*, *Nassaw Seighen*, and *Nassau Hadamar*, that of *East Friesland*, and that of *Furstenberg*.

The Order of this Bank is concluded and compleated by the *Suevian*, *Wetteravian*, *Frankonian*, and *Westphalian* Circles; the Deputies of which change their Session in the Form above-mention'd: The late Bishop of *Osnabrug* being a Protestant, had a Seat by himself by the Bishops side, and voted with them. 'Tis to be observ'd, that the Representatives and Ambassadors of the afore-nam'd Electors and Princes do not take the proper Place of their Masters, in the personal Presence of the other Electors and Princes, but give them the Precedence in the sitting, tho' not in the voting, except the Deputies of *Salzburg*, *Austria*, and *Burgundy*, all which, in the College of Princes, do not stir for any Body; the now Elector *Palatine* pretending to do the same amongst the Secular Princes, as being the first Duke.

Free Ci-  
ties.

As for the Deputies of the Free Cities, 'tis usual with them at their opening of the Diets, to hear the Propositions standing; but in their College they are divided into two Ranks; that is to say, into the *Rhine* Circle, which comprehends *Colen*, *Aix la Chapelle*, *Strasburg*, *Lubeck*, *Wormes*, *Spire*, *Frankfort*, *Agenhau*, *Colmar*, *Schellstat*, *Bremen*, *Milhausen*, *Northausen*, *Vaissenburg*, *Landau*, *Obernheim*, *Kaiserberg*, *Munster* of *St. Gregory*, *Rosheim*, *Turckheim*, *Fridberg*, *Weztlar*, *Geinhausen*, and *Hamburg*; and into the *Suevian* Circle

Circle, in which are accounted the Cities following, *Regensburg* or *Ratisbone*, *Ausburg*, *Nuremberg*, *Ulm*, *Eßling*, *Reutling*, *Nordling*, *Rottenburg*, *Holl Uberling*, *Rotweil*, *Hailbron*, *Gheminden*, *Memming*, *Landau*, *Dunchels pull*, *Biberack*, *Ravensburg*, *Vinsheim*, *Snainfurt*, *Kempton*, *Kaufbaieren*, *Vanghen*, *Insy*, *Laitkerken*, *Wumpfen*, *Ghienghen*, and *Offenburg*, *Waitsemburg*, *Zell*, *Aalen*, *Popfingben*, *Puechora*, *Puechau*, *Breghenback*, and every one of them enjoyeth the Prerogative of a decisive Vote.

Besides the afore-mention'd Cities, there are several others in *Germany*; which, tho' they be not admitted into the College, nevertheless usurp the same Liberties and Freedoms; as *Dantzick*, *Brandenburg*, *Wisnar*, *Rostock*, *Gripfswaldt*, *Magdeburg*, *Lipsick*, *Jena*, *Uratistavia*, or *Breslaw*, and heretofore *Brunswick* and *Ertford*, \* lately subdu'd; all which were partly com-  
prehended in the *Hanstatick* League, and partly living under their own municipal Laws, acknowledge their Princes to be no more than their Protectors: All these Free Cities live under a popular Government, democratical or mixt, and only *Norimberg* preserves an Aristocracy; the Forty chief Families of that City abstaining from all sorts of Mechanick or Liberal Arts whatsoever, and even avoiding the Title of Doctorship; yet, notwithstanding all this, they are esteem'd much Inferior to the other Nobility, altho' of an inferiour Class; and this for their being subject to the Magistrate of the City, whose Jurisdiction in *Germany* extends it self only to the Plebeans; and the Noblemen who submits himself to it, is *ipso facto* degraded. The Two Colledges, the Electorate, and that of the Princes will be treated of afterwards.

\* In the Year 1664.

The



The next Thing we shall mention, is the Golden Bull granted by the Emperor *Charles IV.* which is the Foundation of the Imperial Constitutions.

*CHARLES, &c.*

We declare by this present Edict, which shall continue in Force for ever, *That when there shall be occasion to choose a King of the Romans, or an Emperor, that when our Electors shall take their Journey to the Place of the said Election, every Prince Elector shall be obliged to send a safe Guard to the Travelling Electors, that he may safely go through his Dominions, and further if it's requisite, to the Place of Election; and the same shall be observed at his Return, under the penalty of losing for that time only, his Vote in that Election.*

We command the same to be observed also by all other Princes, Earls, &c. of the Empire, under the pain of losing their Fiefs, and other their Possessions, Rights, Privileges, and be guilty of the *Imperial Ban, &c.*

We likewise Command, *That all Cities, Towns, &c. through which the Electors shall pass, do furnish them with all sorts of Provisions, &c. at Reasonable Rates, under the Penalties above-mentioned.*

And if any Prince, Earl, &c. City, Town, &c. should lay an Ambush, or by any kind of Treachery stop or hinder the Passage of an Elector, or his Deputy, in going or coming to or from the Place of Election; we declare them guilty of Rebellion.

And for their greater Security, and the Performance of this Edict, our Will and Pleasure is, *That all Electors, Princes, &c. oblige themselves by their Oaths and in Writing, to perform them bona fide under the aforesaid Penalties.*

And

And tho' we Command all Electors, &c. to give a safe Guard and Conduct to each Elector or his Deputy; yet we think it necessary however to assign each Elector what Guards they shall have in going to, or coming back from, the Place of Election.

The King of *Bohemia*, Arch-Cupbearer of the Empire, shall be guarded by the Archbishop of *Mentz*, by the Bishops of *Bamberg* and *Wittemberg*, by the *Bargraves* of *Nuremberg* and of *Huendo*.

The Arch-bishop of *Colen*, Arch-Chancellour of the Empire in *Italy*, shall be guarded by the Arch-bishops of *Mentz* and *Triers*, by the Count of *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, and by the Landgrave of *Hesse*, &c.

The Arch-bishop of *Triers*, Arch-Chancellour of the Empire in *Gallia* and in the Kingdom of *Arles*, by the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*, and by the Count *Palatine* of the *Rhine*.

The Count *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, Arch-Master of the Empire, by the Arch-bishop of *Mentz*.

The Duke of *Saxony*, Arch-Marshal of the Empire, by the King of *Bohemia*, and the Marquis of *Brandenberg*.

We also Command, that each Elector give timely Notice to those through whose Dominions he is to travel, which way he intends to go, that they may send Conduct and Guards to the Place appointed.

We likewise Ordain, That the then Arch-bishop of *Mentz* shall send his Circular Letters, by Expresses, to every Elector in particular, to give them Notice of the Time and Place of the said Election, which shall be Three Months from the Date of the Letters, when the Electors shall repair in Person, or by their Deputies to the City of *Frankfort* upon the *Meyn*. The Form of these Letters, and of the Powers given to

the Deputies, shall be exhibited at the End of this present Edict.

The Arch-bishop of *Mentz*, having certain News of the Death of the Emperor, or of the King of the *Romans*, shall in a Month's Time, from the Day he has receiv'd the News of the said Death, give Notice of it to all the Electors by his Circular Letters; and if the said Arch-bishop should neglect it, then the Electors, without Intimation, shall in three Months repair to *Francfort* to choose an Emperor or a King of the *Romans*. But none of the Electors, or their Ambassadors, shall enter into *Francfort* at the Time of the Election with more than 200 Horse; 50 of which are only to be armed. And if any Elector, after having such Notice to appear, shall refuse or neglect to come or send his Deputies thither with full Powers; or if being come, he retires before the Election be made, without leaving a Deputy, he shall for that Time only lose his Vote in the Election. And that the Election may proceed regularly, we command all the Inhabitants of *Francfort*, to protect the Electors and their Retinues from any Kind of Insult or Affronts; and if any Quarrel should arise, to pacify it immediately, under Pain of Forfeiting their Rights and Priviledges. And to the end that Peace may be preserved, they shall not suffer any Stranger to come into their City during the Time of the Election.

*The Election of the King of the Romans.*

The Electors having made their Entry in the City of *Francfort*, shall go in a Morning to the Church of St. *Bartholomew* the Apostle; and having assisted at the Mass of the Holy Ghost, the Gospel of St. *John* being laid before them, the Ecclesiastical Electors laying their Hands on their  
Breasts,



Breasts, and the *Secular Electors* laying their Hand on the *Gospel*, the Archbishop of *Mentz* shall administer to them, and take with them the following Oath:

*I N. Archbishop of Mentz, swear upon this Holy Gospel, and by the Faith I owe to GOD and the Holy Roman Empire, that according to my best Abilities, and with the Help of GOD, I will Elect such a Person for King of the Romans, whom I shall think worthy of that Dignity, and that without any Solicitation, private Interest, Hopes of Reward, Promise, or Expectation whatsoever: So help me GOD and his Saints.*

After having taken the said Oath, the Electors shall proceed to the Election, and shall not go out of *Franckfort*, till the Election be made. And if in thirty Days, from the Day they began, they shall not have concluded the Election, they shall have no other Subsistence but Bread and Water, during the rest of the time that the Election continues, and until it be finish'd.

After the *Electors*, or the greater Number of them, have made their Choice of a King of the *Romans*, the Election shall stand as effectually as if all of them had unanimously voted for the same Person. It is also provided, That if an *Electors* or his Deputy shall come to *Franckfort* after the Election is begun, he shall however be admitted to the Election.

The King of the *Romans*, soon after his Election, and before he administers any Affairs of the Empire, shall by his Letters Patents confirm (without delay) the Privileges, Rights, &c. of the *Electors*, *Princes*, *Towns*, which they enjoy'd before his Election, and shall do the same if he comes to be *Emperor*.

We also decree, That in case three *Electors* present, or the Ambassadors of the absent, shall make choice of an *Elector* present or absent to be King of the *Romans*, the Vote of the Elected, if he is present, or the Vote of his Ambassador if he is absent, shall prevail and make the greater and decisive Number.

*The Places of the Arch-Bishops of Triers, Colen, and Mentz.*

To prevent Disputes and Differences which may arise between the Arch-bishops of *Mentz*, *Colen*, or *Triers*, about Precedency in *Imperial* and *Royal* Assemblies; we by and with the Consent and Advice of all the Electors, have ordain'd by this present *Edict*, which shall continue in Force for ever, that the Arch-bishop of *Triers* shall sit over against the *Emperor*; he of *Mentz* shall sit in any Country whatsoever, the Province of *Colen* excepted, on the Right-hand of the *Emperor*; and he of *Colen* upon the Right-hand also.

*Of the Princes Electors in general.*

We likewise decree, That whensoever the *Emperor*, or the King of the *Romans*, shall be present in the *Imperial* Assemblies, or shall sit in Council, at Table or in any other Place with the *Electors*, the King of *Bohemia*, as a Crowned Head, shall sit next to the Arch-bishop of *Mentz* or *Colen*; the Count *Palatine* next to him; the Duke of *Saxony* shall sit on the *Emperor's* Left-hand, and the Marquess of *Brandenbourg* next to the Duke of *Saxony*. The *Elector* of *Mentz*, when the Empire is vacant, shall have Power alone to convoke Electors to the future Election; and

and shall receive their Suffrages after the following manner. He shall first ask the Opinion of the Elector of *Trier*, whom we declare shall have Power to give the first Vote; then the Arch-bishop of *Colen*; *thirdly*, the King of *Bohemia*; *4thly*, the Count *Palatin*; *5thly*, the Duke of *Saxony*; *6thly*, the Elector of *Brandenburg*; and *lastly*, the Arch-bishop of *Mentz* shall give his Vote.

In performing the Ceremonies at the *Imperial* and *Royal* Feasts, the Marquis of *Brandenbourg* shall give Water to wash the Emperor's Hands, and the King of the *Romans*; the King of *Bohemia* shall give the Cup; the Count *Palatin* shall bring in the Dish of Meat, and the Duke of *Saxony* shall act as High-Marshal of the Empire.

*The Rights of the Count Palatine, and the Duke of Saxony.*

When the Imperial Throne is vacant, the Count *Palatin* shall be *Vicar* of the Empire in the Parts on the *Rhine*, *Suabia*, and *Franconia*, with full Power to administer Justice, to nominate Persons, to all Ecclesiastical Preferment, to receive the *Revenues* of the Empire, to give the Investiture of all Fiefs, and to take their Oaths and Homage in the Name of the *Empire*; nevertheless they shall be renew'd by the King of the *Romans* after he is elected, but the Fiefs of Princes, the Fiefs invested by the Delivery of a Standard, shall be given only by the *Emperors*, or the Kings of the *Romans*; and the Count *Palatin* during his Administration shall have no Power to alienate any thing belonging to the Empire.

The Duke of *Saxony* shall also have the same Power, and on the same Conditions in all Places where the *Saxon Law* is observed: And tho' by



ancient Custom, the *Emperor* and the King of the *Romans* are obliged being sued at Law for Debt to give their Answers before the Count *Palatin*; yet that Count shall not exercise that Jurisdiction in any Place but in the Imperial Court, where the Emperor and the King of the *Romans* shall be present.

*The Precedence of the Electors above all the other Princes.*

We ordain that in all Ceremonies and Imperial Assemblies, all the Princes Electors shall precede every other Prince of that Quality and Dignity soever; and that the King of *Bohemia* shall have Pre-eminency, and place before any other King whatsoever.

*The Succession of the Electors.*

To prevent all Causes of Offence and Differences between the Sons of the *Secular Electors*, concerning the Right of *Election*, and the Dangers of long Delays; we decree by this perpetual *Edict*, that in case one of the said Electors should die, his Eldest Son being Legitimate, and a Secular Prince shall *Ipso facto*, have the same Electoral Right his Father had, and in case the Eldest Son should die, his Eldest Son being a *Secular*, shall succeed him in the same Right; and if the Eldest Son has no Issue, his younger Brother Legitimate and *Secular* shall have the same Power, and the Succession so regulated, shall continue for ever: But if the *Electors* or his Rightful Successors leave Male Children that are Minors, the next of Kin shall administer the Office till the Heir be of full Age, and then the Administrator shall immediately surrender the Power and Office

of *Elector*, which he held in their Names. And if any of his Dominions should be vacant to the Profit of the Empire, the *Emperor* or the King of the *Romans* shall dispose of them as they please without Prejudice to the Privileges of *Bohemia*, who have Right to elect themselves a King. [So it was then.]

*The Priviledges of the Subjects of Bohemia.*

As the Privileges granted by our Predecessors, and confirmed by us to all the Subjects of *Bohemia*, *Viz.* That none of them under any Pre-  
tence whatsoever shall be summoned out of that Kingdom, to appear before any other Court but that of the King of *Bohemia*, we do determine, that if any of the said Subjects should be summoned to appear before any other Court, they shall not be obliged to appear; and all Judgments given against them for not appearing shall be void: Nor shall the said Subjects have Power to appear in any Case to any other Court but to that of their King; and if they do, the Sentence of all other Tribunals shall be declared null and void to all Intents and Purposes.

*The Gold and Silver Mines and other Mettals.*

We hereby order that the Kings of *Bohemia*, and all the Electors, shall quietly possess all the Gold and Silver Mines, and those of other Metals, Saline, with the Profits of Salt, and Springs already found, and those that shall be found hereafter in their own Dominions, and shall have Power to receive *Jews* in their Dominions, and raise Taxes, and Customs, &c. as they have done in times past.

*The Coin.*

The King of *Bohemia* shall have Power to coin *Gold* and *Silver* in all his Dominions; to purchase Castles, Lands, &c. take Mortgages, &c. on Condition that those Estates shall pay the usual Duties to the *Empire*; which Power we also grant to all the Electors and their Successors under the same Condition.

*The Election of the Princes Electors.*

We also decree, That all the Subjects of the Electors of *Colen*, *Mentz* and *Triers*, shall appear only in all Causes whatsoever, before their Princes Courts, and no where else, and that Sentences given against them in other Courts, shall be null and void. Also that none of the Subjects of these *Electors* shall appeal from the Judgment of their Courts, and if any do, those Appeals shall be void. But if Justice be denied to the said Subjects by their Princes, they shall then have Liberty to appeal only to the Imperial Court. The same Right is hereby granted also, to all other *Secular Electors* and their Successors, and to their Successors under the same Limitations.

*The Assemblies of the Electors.*

We, with the Advice of all the *Electors*, Princes now assembled at *Nuremburg*, have ordained, That the said *Electors* for the future, shall meet in Person in one of our Imperial Cities once a Year, a Month after *Easter*, and that for this present Year, we shall hold such an Assembly at that time in our City of *Metz*, and then will appoint



point a Place where we shall meet again the next Year, and do promise to protect and guard the Princes going to, or returning from the appointed City; and that expediting Affairs, may not be delay'd by the usual Feasts happening in those Assemblies, we command, that no general Entertainment be made, but private, and moderate Treats only.

*Of the Revolution of Privileges, &c.*

We by this present Edict do declare, that all the Privileges granted by us, or by the Emperors and Kings of the *Romans* our Predecessors, to any Body of what Quality soever, Cities, Towns, &c. or to be granted hereafter, shall in no way prejudice to the Liberties and Jurisdictions of the *Electors*, tho' it is expressed in the Grants of those Privileges that they shall not be revoked.

*Of those that are deprived of their Feudatory Estates.*

Forasmuch as in many Places of the Empire, Vassals resign and renounce the Fiefs which they hold of their Lords, and that after such a Renunciation, they claim a Right to declare War, seize the same Fiefs against the Right of their Lords, we declare these Renunciations to be void, except they be legally and freely made, and that whoever shall act to the contrary, or under that Pretence, shall trouble their Lords, shall lose their Fiefs, be declared Infamous, be put to the *Ban* of the Empire, and shall be declared incapable to possess those Fiefs again, and we order the Investiture given to them to be of no Effect.

*The Conspiracies.*

We Condemn and declare Null and Void all Conspiracies and unlawful Assemblies, under any manner of Pretences held without the Consent of their Superiors, those excepted only, which are held for the Preservation of the Publick Peace against them; and those who for time to come shall make such unlawful Conventions, besides the Pains expressed against them by the Laws, shall be declared Infamous, Fined to pay Ten Pounds in Gold, and if a City, a Hundred Pounds of Gold, one Moiety to the Emperor, and the other to their Lord.

*Halburghers, or those who have lost their Freedom.*

Being informed that several Burghers and others in Contempt of their Natural Duty to their Superiors, have in time past, and to this Day continue to make themselves Burghers and Subjects of other Cities and Towns, to defraud their Natural Lords of their Right over them; we by the Advice of the Electors, Princes, &c. have decreed by this present Constitution, that such Subjects shall no way enjoy the Privileges of the Cities, &c. where they have bought their Freedoms to the Prejudice of the Natural Superiors, unless they actually reside in those Cities, notwithstanding any Privileges obtain'd by them to the contrary; which we declare Null, and whoever shall transgress this Law for the Future, shall pay an Hundred Marks of pure Gold, one Moiety to the Empire and the other to their Lords.

*Of Challenges.*

We Declare that those who under Pretence of a just Cause that Challenge any Person in a place which is not his ordinary Abode, shall have no Power to spoil his Lands or burn his Houses: And that those kinds of Challenges are unlawful, unless they be made Publickly and before sufficient Witness, otherwise he that sent the Challenge shall be noted of Infamy, and punish'd as a Traytor by our Judges. We also forbid private Wars, Burning, unlawful Impositions, and Exactions for safe Conduct under the aforesaid Penalties.

*The Tenor of Letters of Summons to the Place of Election of the King of the Romans.*

To the most Illustrious Prince, Lord, &c. the Marquis of *Brandenbourg*, High Chancellor of the Holy *Roman* Empire our Colleague and Dear Friend: We hereby give notice of the Election of the King of the *Romans*, which for good Reasons ought to be immediately; and therefore invite you according to the Duty of our Office, and the Customs of the said Election, that in Three Months time from the Date of such a Day, you come your self or send your Ambassadors or Proxies, one or more with full Powers, to the appointed Place to Advise, Treat and Agree, (according to the Sacred Laws made for that Purpose) with other Princes, your and our Colleagues, about the Election of a King of the *Romans*, who shall hereafter by the Grace of God be *Emperor*, and to stay in the same Place till the Election be over, and to act as is order'd by the Sacred Law Establish'd for that purpose, and



and if you fail we shall Proceed to the Election with the rest of your and our Collegues, according to the Authority of the said Laws, notwithstanding you or your Ambassadors Absence.

*The Form of a Deputation to be given to the Elector who sends his Proxy.*

We by the Grace of God, &c. and of the Holy Empire, &c. be it known to all, that for just and reasonable Causes the Election of the King of the *Romans* is to be speedily made; and since we earnestly desire, as we are obliged in our own Honour and the Honour of the *Empire*, it may not be exposed to any Danger by delay: We being fully persuaded of the Fidelity, Ability and Prudence of our Dear and Welbeloved, &c. have Nominated and appointed them to be our True, Lawful and Special *Proxies*, to Advise and Agree with the rest of our Collegues about the Election of a Person fit to be King of the *Romans*; and to take in our Names the Necessary Oaths, and do every thing respectively as if we were Personally present, promising to Ratifie and Confirm what shall be Concluded by them in our Names.

*Of the Union of the Principality of the Electors, and of the Priviledges Annexed to them.*

Forasmuch as the Right of the Election of the King of the *Romans*, is inseparably United to the Principalities of the Electors; and as the same Right cannot fall but to those who Possess those Principalities. We Decree by this perpetual *Edict*, that the Right of Election

lection shall be always so United to the said Principalities, that whoever shall be in Possession of them, shall also enjoy the Right, Office, &c. of an *Elect*or, any thing done heretofore to the contrary notwithstanding.

*The Order for the Ranks of the Arch-Bishops.*

Having already order'd the Precedence among the Ecclesiastical Electors in Council, at Table, &c. We now think fit to Prescribe the order to be observed in Processions, and other Publick Demarches.

Whenever the *Emperor* or King of the *Romans*, shall March out in State, the Arch-Bishop of *Trier* shall immediately go before the Emperor or the King of the *Romans*, nobody Marching between them, but the Princes who bear the Imperial Ornaments; but when the *Emperor* or King Marches without the said Ornaments, then the same Arch-Bishop shall March directly before the *Emperor* or the King, no Person between them; and the other two Arch-Bishops shall in Procession, have the same place before Assigned them.

*Of the March of the Secular Electors.*

In all Processions and other Solemnities, where the Imperial or Royal Ornaments are Born, the Duke of *Saxony* bearing the Imperial Royal *Sword* shall immediately precede; the Emperor having on his Right Hand the *Count Palatine* bearing the *Globe*, and on his Left, the Marquis of *Brandenbourg* bearing the *Scepter*, the King of *Bohemia* shall immediately follow the Emperor.

And

And the first Consecrated Arch-Bishop shall have the Precedency in pronouncing the Blessings at the end of every Solemn Mass.

*The following Laws, were Published, in the Dyet of Metz, on Christmas-Day in the Year 1356, by Charles the 4th. Emperor, by the Electors present, Theodore Bishop of Alba Cardinal, and Charles Eldest Son of the King of France, Duke of Normandy, and Dauphin of Viennais.*

If any Person shall Attempt or by Oath Promise and Engage in any Conspiracy against the Life of any of the Electors of the Empire; he shall be put to Death, and all his Goods and Estate Forfeited, as in Cases of High Treason; for the *Electors* being part of our own Body, the Will shall be punished with the same Severity, as if the Fact had been Committed: The Son of the Traytor shall lose his Maternal Inheritance, and in all other Inheritances whatsoever, the Daughters shall have only the fourth part of their Maternal Estates. The Accomplices of the said Traytors and their Sons, shall suffer the same Punishments, unless they discover the Treason or the beginning of the Conspiracy, and then they shall be Pardoned and Rewarded: But if the Traytor shall be dead before the Discovery, his Estate shall nevertheless be Forfeited, and whoever is guilty of such Treason, from that very time, shall be incapable to sell or Mortgage his Estate, to Free his Slaves or demand any Debts that are due to him.



*The Preservation of the Principalities of the Electors.*

We Ordain by this present Constitution, that the *Principalities* of *Bohemia*, the *Palatinate*, *Saxony*, and *Brandenbourg* with all their Dependencies, shall never be divided; but be preserved whole; and that the Eldest Son shall Succeed to them, unless he is *Non Compos mentis*, and uncapable to Govern, for in such Cases the Second Son, shall Succeed him, or the next of Kin, by his Father's side.

*The Imperial Court.*

The Day being appointed on which the *Emperor* or the *King of the Romans* shall hold his Imperial Court, all the *Electors* shall be ready at the Imperial or Royal *Palace*, where the *Emperor* or the *King* in their *Robes* shall Ride on Horse-back with all the *Electors* to the place of the Court, every one after the Order and Manner above Prescribed, the Arch-Chancellor bearing at the top of his Silver Staff the *Imperial* or *Royal Seals*. The other *Electors* the *Scepter*, &c. as it is order'd before. Other Princes named by the *Emperor* shall March immediately before the Arch-Bishop of *Triers*, bearing the *Crown of Aix la Chappelle* and the *Crown of Milan*, which shall only be observed when the *Emperor* shall wear his *Imperial Crown*. The *Empress* also or the *Queen of the Romans* in their *Robes* shall go after the *Emperor*, the *King of the Romans*, and the *King of Bohemia*, attended by her Officers and Maids of Honour.

*The*

*The Offices of the Electors during the Session of the Imperial Court.*

Every time the *Emperor* or the *King* of the *Romans* shall keep a Solemn Court, the *Electors* shall perform their Offices after the following manner.

The *Emperor* Sitting on his Throne, the Duke of *Saxony* being on Horse-back before the Gate of the *Palace*, a heap of Oats shall be prepared as high as the Horse's Breast; and the Duke having his Silver Staff and a Measure of Silver, both weighing Twelve Marks, he shall fill the Measure with Oats, and give it to the next Groom of the Stables, then planting his Staff in the Oats, he retires, and the Vice Marshal or the Marshal of the Court approaching, they leave the Oats as Plunder to all that can take them.

The *Emperor* or the *King* of the *Romans* Sitting down, the *Ecclesiastical Electors* shall Bless the Table; then the Arch-Bishops, or one of them, bearing the *Seals* at the top of the Silver Staff, shall put them upon the Table, and the Arch-Bishop in whose *Diocese* the Court is held, shall take the broadest *Seal* and hang it about his Neck during Dinner time. The *Staff* and the *Seal* shall belong to the Chancellor of the Court to dispose of as he pleases.

Then the Marquis of *Brandenbourg* on Horse-back, having in his Hands a *Silver Basin* and *Ewer* with Water and a Napkin, shall pour out Water to wash the *Emperor's* Hands.

The

The Count Palatine on Horse-back, bringing in Four *Silver* Dishes of Meat shall set them on the Table.

After them, the King of *Bohemia* being on Horse-back, and bearing a *Silver-Cup* cover'd full of *Wine* and *Water*, shall Dismount, and kneeling down, Present it to the *Emperor* or to the King of the *Romans*.

*Of the Imperial and Electoral Tables.*

The *Imperial* or Royal Table shall be Six Foot Higher than any other Table in the Hall, and in Solemn Assemblies, no body shall Sit at them; but the *Emperor* or the King. The Table of the *Empress* or the Queen shall be on one side, and Three Foot lower than the *Emperors*; but yet Three Foot higher than that of the *Electors*: The Tables of the *Electors* shall be all equal of the same Height, and sit below the *Emperor's* Table; Three on the Right, Three on the Left side, and the Seventh over against the *Emperors*; but no *Elector* shall sit at his Table till they have all Performed their Offices, and then they all sit down at the same time.

According to the Ancient Customs, the *Election* shall be made at *Francfort*, the *Coronation* at *Aix la Chappelle*, and the first Court shall Assemble at *Nuremberg*.

If an *Elector* for weighty Reasons shall be absent, his *Proxy* or Deputy shall not sit at the *Elector's* Table.

As



We also Strictly Order, that the Successors of the *Princes Electors* at Seven Years of Age, shall learn the *Latin, Italian and Slavonian* Tongues.

Form of  
Govern-  
ment.

As to the Form of Government us'd in the Empire, it is neither Absolutely *Monarchical* nor *Aristocratical*, but a mean between them both, nor is the Emperor so Circumscribed within certain Bounds, as it is in some Kingdoms of *Europe*; where their Princes cannot exercise any kind of Sovereignty, without the Consent of the Estates; for *Germany* acknowledges but one Supreme Head under the Title of *Roman Emperor*, which Dignity was first annexed to the *German Empire* by *Otho* or *Otto*. The Estates of *Germany* have great and powerful Countries in their Possession, have a considerable share of the Sovereignty over their own Subjects, and tho' they are Subjects of the Emperor and Empire themselves, yet must not be consider'd as meer Subjects, being actually possessed of the Supreme Power in Criminal Affairs, to regulate the Affairs of Religion, to dispose of the Revenues arising out of their own Territories, to make Alliances among themselves, and with Foreign Princes; (always provided they be not intended against the Emperor or Empire) they have also Power to build Fortresses, and maintain Armies of their own, to Coin Money, and do other things necessary to their own Welfare: Which Grandure of the Estates has always been a great Obstacle to those Emperors that have endeavour'd to render their Authority Absolute.

But

## A View of the State of the Empire, &amp;c.

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But that which principally keeps the Empe-  
ror from Transgressing his Bounds, is, because  
the Emperor is Elective, and as he is chosen, so  
he may be deposed by the *Electors* and other  
Estates of the Empire: Who upon Emperors  
voluntary *Abdication*, by his taking *Holy Orders*,  
or in case of *Tyranny* or actual Incapacity, will  
proceed to the Choice of another, in which they  
are confin'd to these Rules. First, they Elect  
one of the *Masculin*, and not the *Feminine* Sex.  
Secondly, That he must be of the *German* Nati-  
on. Thirdly, Of competent *Age*, tho' some-  
times they have made Infractions on this Rule.  
Fourthly, That he be of the *Laity*, and not a  
*Clergyman*. Fifthly, That he be a *Papist*; tho'  
there be as yet no known Law to hinder a *Pro-  
testant* from being Emperor. Sixthly, that he  
be a just and good Man, of solid Piety, and  
great Prudence and Courage. Lastly, That he  
be of *Illustrious Birth*, at least a *Baron*; Rich,  
Powerful, and has such a considerable share of  
the Goods of Fortune, that he can by his own  
Estate maintain the Imperial Dignity in its  
highest Grandure. But the Election and Coro-  
nation of the Emperor, declaration a great part  
of their Constitution in asserting the Rights and  
Priviledges of the People, and containing sever-  
al Curiosities that will not be unpleasant to the  
Reader, that Affair being not till now ever  
Printed in *English*; I shall first entertain him  
with a Relation of that Ceremony, before I pro-  
ceed to Matters of great Consequence.

If the Electors find in the Person of him whom  
the precedent Emperor procur'd the Favour to  
be made King of the *Romans* during his Life-  
time, all the Requisite Qualifications that may  
entitle him to receive the Imperial Dignity, or  
have Reason to hope from his Education, and  
former Demeanor, that in time he will acquire

all the good Qualities he wants, they give him the Preference; but if his Conversation has been distasteful to the Publick, or discovers any Incapacity for the management of so great a *Trust*, they lay him aside, and proceed to the Election of one that is better Accomplish'd. This Election according to the *Golden Bull*, ought to be made at *Francfort*, but that has been often dispenc'd with upon divers intervening Accidents. As soon as the *Electors* have made their Choice by Majority of Voices, and while they are making preparation for the *Emperor's* Coronation, an Ambassador is dispatch'd to *Rome*, to acquaint the *Pope* with their Proceedings, and obtain his Confirmation of the Election. These Letters being granted, they dispence with going into *Italy*, to take the two Crowns of *Rome* and *Milan*, as regarding their single Election, and the Oaths usually taken by the Emperor at his Coronation, to be a plenary Investiture of all the Rights and Dignities of the Empire, and that all the rest were but Ceremonies to make the *German* Election more Solemn and Publick.

All which Presidents and Practices of the Empire, sufficiently justify their Claim to the Power of Deposing the Emperor, when the same Reason shall occur that gave Birth and Authority to their Proceedings against the forementioned Emperors.

*King of the  
Romans.*

We shall in the next Place treat of the King of the *Romans*. In elder Times that Dignity was unknown in the Sense 'tis now receiv'd; for from the times of the first Emperors to that of *Charlemain*, the Emperors themselves were Kings of the *Romans*; that is to say, *Sovereign Princes of the City of Rome, Kings of the Romans, and Emperors in the same Person*; and therefore when *Charlemain* destin'd his Eldest Son to be his Successor in the Empire, that he might give him Honour,



Honour, and not confound the Titles, or lessen his own Authority, he made him King of *Italy*, which quietly was enjoy'd by his Sons *Louis* the Debonair, and *Lothair* I. who following his Example, gave their presumptive Heirs the same Dignities, which in those times signified as much as *Cesar* under the first Emperors, and as King of the *Romans* now. This last Quality began in the Reign of *Otho* I. when the Princes out of a Capricio of Devotion, believing that the Title of *Emperor* was in the Gift of the Pope, and being unwilling to thwart him, would not give the Title of Emperor to his Son when he Crown'd him, but gave him the Title of King of the *Romans*, which he had Power to dispose of as Sovereign Prince of the City of *Rome*, and several Emperors in those Days contented themselves with this Title only, which by virtue of their Elections, invested them in the full Possession of the Empire and Imperial Dignity, till they could obtain the name of *Emperor*, when the Pope thought fit to Crown them.

But now the King of the *Romans* is taken under another Acceptation, as one that is elected to that Dignity by the Princes of the Empire, during the Life of the Emperor, and who has the management of all Affairs in the Emperor's Absence, as Vicar-General of the Empire, and by virtue of that Election, succeeds *Emperor* after the Death of the former, except there be a necessity for another Election or Confirmation. This by some is look'd upon as an Artifice in *Charles V.* to make the Empire in a manner Hereditary without Noise or Trouble, and the Project has succeeded in the House of *Austria*, in first making themselves Kings of the *Romans*, and then they were sure of being Emperors in course, as in the Example of *Maximilian* I. *Ferdinand* I. *Maximilian* II. *Rudolphus* II. *Ferdinand* III. and

the two last Emperors ; for which Reason the Elector of *Saxony* and the Confederates of *Smalkald* protested against this close Design of *Charles V.* and Methods were afterwards propos'd to regulate that Affair ; but at length this Matter was accommodated between *Charles* and the *Electors*, and other Princes, in the Year 1532. who it seems did not look deep enough into the Affair, nor saw what would be the Consequence of it.

*His Authority, how limited.*

The King of the *Romans* being chosen by the *Electors* of the Empire, the *Emperor* is then invited to the Assembly by the *Electors*, to confirm the Election ; which being done, the King of the *Romans* is Proclaim'd and Crown'd, not with the Imperial Crown, but an open Crown, which they call the *Roman* ; nor do they take an Oath of Fidelity to him, till after the Death of the *Emperor* : They also give him the Title of *August*, but not that of *Always August*, which is reserv'd to the *Emperor* : They also make a difference in their Arms, for the King of the *Romans* is only an *Eagle* display'd with one Head, but the *Emperor's* is an *Eagle* display'd with two Heads. He has no Authority while the *Emperor* is in the Empire, but when he is out of it, the King of the *Romans*, as the second chief and perpetual Vicar of the Empire, Governs all Affairs as if the *Emperor* was present, is treated with the Title of *Royal Majesty*, and has the same Respect and Honours paid him as if he were *Emperor* ; only with this difference, that the *Marshal* of the Court carries the Sword before him in the Scabbard, but before the *Emperor* Naked.

In Ancient times, when the Estates and Members of the Empire were oblig'd to confer together about their common Affairs, they all met in the same Place, and form'd but one Assembly, where they receiv'd the Propositions the Emperor was pleas'd to make them, and deliberated and decided the Affairs before them. And as one of the most important Business of the Empire was the Election of an Emperor, so that choice was made by the Princes and People joyntly; but after the Death of *Lothair the 2d.* the Princes who had already excluded the People from their Right of Election, being met together at *Coblentz*, to Elect the Successor, they resolv'd before all things, to proceed in this Order. They named Seven among themselves, Three Arch-bishops for the Ecclesiastical Estate, and Four Secular Princes for the Nobility, viz. one King, one Count Palatine, one Marquiss, and one Duke, and they were of the most considerable Persons that carried those Titles. These confiding in their own Power, invested themselves with Authority to Elect the Emperor, agreeing that if their Report was agreeable to the Assembly, he should be Proclaimed Emperor. On this manner, *Conrad the Third*, and *Frederick the First*, were chosen Emperors, tho' both these Elections were contested, one by *Henry the Proud Duke of Saxony*, and the other by *Henry the Lion*, his Son and Successor, as Facts contrary to Law, and the Ancient Customs of the Empire.

*The three Colledges of the Empire.*

*The Rise of the Electors.*

These New Electors continued the same manner of Election, during Seventy five Years, under the Reigns of *Henry VI.* *Philip of Suabia*, *Otho* and *Frederick II.* and then making this long Possession a kind of Right, gave themselves the Title of *Electors*, during the *Interregnum* which followed the Death of *Frederick II.* They Authoriz'd

*How they began.*



thoriz'd themselves the more easily, as being the most considerable and most powerful Princes in the Empire, and making themselves Arbitrators of the Government, named *Rodolphus I.* and the Emperors following, without any Contests among the Estates, tho it was an invasion upon the Ancient Custom. At length the Emperor *Charles IV.* turn'd this Practice into a Fundamental Law of the Empire, and publish'd it in the *Golden Bull.*

*How they  
came to Se-  
perate.*

The *Electors* having thus began since the Reign of *Frederick II.* to Assemble separately for Elections, pretended also the Rights of holding their Conferences apart for the other Affairs of the Empire, without regard to the Protestations that the *Princes* and the Imperial Cities made against this Separation. This made the Princes and the Imperial Cities take up a Resolution also of Assembling in separate Bodies, to make their Deliberations; and these three Bodies of the *Electors*, the *Princes* and the *Imperial Cities*, form'd also different Classes, which they call'd *Colleges*, which Distinction was receiv'd and establish'd in the Diet held at *Frankfort*, in the Year 1580.

*The Electro-  
ral College,  
their Rights*

The *Electors* have two Characters in one and the same Person, one which is common with other Princes of the Empire, and the other is particular to themselves. By the first they are Sovereign in their own Dominions, and in that Quality their Subjects owe them Homage and Oaths of Fidelity; they have the Right of the Sword in punishing Criminals, and in making War. They have the Right of making Laws, establishing Tribunals in their Estates, and regulating Justice and Policy: Of Coining Money, imposing Taxes, and making Confederacies and Alliances with the other Princes of the Empire, and Foreigners, for their particular Interests;

Of

Of fortifying Places, levying Troops, making Arsenals, and casting Cannon. They have Power to grant Pardons, Remission, and Absolution; to License Fairs, and Markets, and to Permit or Prohibit Hunting, Setting, Fowling, Fishing: They have Power to Disinherit for *Bastardize* and otherwise. They raise Tenths upon the Mines and Salts, and have their share in Treasures when discover'd. They send and receive Ambassadors; they contract Marriages and grant Dispensations for Marriages, to those who profess the Protestant Religion within their Dominions.

These Rights they enjoy without Dispute or Molestation; but there are many things in which they cannot exercise an Absolute Authority: As for Example; They cannot give any other value to Mony, nor make any other kind of Mony than what is allowed by the Empire: They cannot augment their own particular Authorities, nor lay Tolls nor Customs upon their Bridges, Rivers, or Passages, through their Estates, to which Strangers are subject, without the consent of his Imperial Majesty in full *Diet*. They cannot under pretence of securing their own Estates, enter into any Confederacy that directly or consequently may tend to the Prejudice of the Empire, and the Fidelity they have Sworn to it: As for Example, If any *Elect* or other *Prince*, shall for the Preservation of his own Estates, engage with Foreign Princes in a League or Neutrality, and in Pursuance of that League or Neutrality, shall think himself obliged to Arm in Defence of this Treaty; that *Elect* or other Prince shall be restrain'd by virtue of his Oath of Fidelity to the Emperor and the Empire, and if after warning given him, he grows Contumacious, he is to be proceeded against at the Discretion of the Emperor and his great

*Their Restrictions.*

Council of the Estates of the Empire; for though such offending Princes are Sovereigns in their own Territories, yet they are Subjects to the Emperor and the Empire, and must prefer their Duty before their particular Safeties: for their Losses may and ought to be repaired, but the Destruction of the Empire cannot.

*Ecclesiastical Electors.*

The Three Electoral Archbishops, Bishops and Abbots, were some Time invested and confirmed by the Emperor, by the Delivery of a Ring and a Verge; but Pope Gregory VII. having fulminated against this sort of Investiture as Symoniacal, the Emperors have since contented themselves with the Homage of these Prelates for their Temporals, belonging to the Empire, and on this Foot the Ecclesiastical Electors give their Suffrages at the Election of an Emperor, tho' they have not received their Bulls from the Pope; because the Electoral Dignity is Secular, and appertains to the Principality, and not their Ecclesiastical Offices.

*Secular Electors.*

The Secular Electors succeed in the Electoral Dignity, and so their Electorals from Father to Son *ad infinitum*, continuing always in the oldest Male Branch in a Lineal Succession, and never falls from it to the *Cadets* or other Relations, till the intire Extinction of the eldest of the Family.

*Of the present Electorates and Electors.*

The Reader will not be displeased at this Time of a Vacancy in the Imperial Dignity to see something concerning the Electoral, which is the next to it in the Roman Empire; and having treated of its Rise and Progress in general, we shall now come to the particular Electorates and Electors, with the Powers and Privileges of each, as well as its Origin and Establishment, and must begin with the Ecclesiastical. For since the Popes usurp the Sovereignty of Rome, once the Seat of the Empire of the World, the Spiritual Dominion always assumes Precedence.

The



The Archbishop and Elector of *Mentz* is the first of the Ecclesiastical Electors, High Chancellor of the Empire, perpetual Dean of the Electoral College, Guardian of the Archives and Matriculation, Visitor of the Council of *Vienna*, the Chamber of *Spire*, and all the Posts of the Empire, as natural Arbitrator of all Publick Affairs. To him all foreign Princes and States address the Propositions they have to make to the Empire, and to him the Princes and States of the Empire make their Complaints for Redress of Grievances. The City of *Mentz* was formerly a Free and Imperial City, but having for its Bishop a Prince of *Nessau* about 400 Years ago, he made himself Sovereign of it, and was afterwards erected into an Electorate. All the Canons of the Chapter must be of noble Birth, or Gentlemen of four Descents at least. The Revenues of this Elector are valued at 700000 Crowns a Year. The present Archbishop and Elector is *Anselm Francis Frederick*, and the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, Brother to the Elector Palatine, was lately elected his Coadjutor.

Electorate  
and Elector  
of Mentz.

This Archbishoprick pretends to the greatest Antiquity of any in *Germany*, for *Mentz*, *Cologne*, *Leige*, &c. were formerly Suffragans to it. It has now Three Suffragans only, and all in the Hands of the *French*, *Metz*, *Toul*, and *Verdun*. This was in ancient Times a Free and Imperial City, but had the same Fate with *Mentz*, to have been deprived of its Liberty by its Bishop. This Elector has the first Voice in Elections, and in all Assemblies General and Electoral. He has a particular Seat over against the Emperor. He has Power to reunite to the Demesns of his Church all the Fiefs situate in his Diocess, and those that fall to it for want of Heirs Male, if the Heirs have no Privilege to the contrary. He can by his own Authority put those to the Imperial Ban whom he has excommunicated, if they don't reconcile

Electorate  
and Elector  
of Tryer.

concile themselves to the Church in a Year afterwards; and this Ban has the same Force as if it had been pronounced by the States of the Empire. He is Guardian of the Miners of the Empire, and his Revenues are as great in Times of Peace as his of *Mentz*. The present Archbishop and Elector is *John Hugo d' Orsbec*, he was chosen in 1676, but his Dominions lye so near the *French*, that he has seldom been entirely Master even of his Capital; however he is not in that Interest. The Bishop of *Osnabrug* was in April 1710 chosen his Coadjutor.

The Electorate and Elector of *Cologne*.

This for Revenue is the most considerable Archbishoprick in *Germany*, and has been so since the 11th Century. The A. B. is Chancellor of the Empire for *Italy*, but the Office is now, by his Rebellion, vested in the Chapter. He is appointed by the Bull to anoint and crown the K. of the *Roms*, but other Bps claim that Privilege of Ceremony he performed in their Dioceses. His Chapter of 60 consists of Princes and Counts, not a Baron is admitted. The City is Free and Imperial, and only pays Homage to the Bishops. 'Tis fresh in Memory what a Struggle there was to get the Prince of *Bavaria*, *Clement Joseph*, chosen Elector, against the Competition of Prince *William* of *Furstemberg*, who was supported by *France*, as Prince *Clement* was by the Allies, tho' he has ungratefully deserted them, and entered into a Confederacy with the *French* King, which makes him a Rebel to the Empire, and loses his Vote in the Electoral College.

This is first Secular Elector of the Empire.

The King of *Bohemia* is the first Secular Elector of the Empire, and gives his Suffrage next after the Elector of *Cologne*, but has neither Seat or Voice among the Electors; but at the Election of the Emperor *Otho* IV. in the Year 1208 admitted the King of *Bohemia* to the Privilege of being a Prince, Elector of the Empire, who was further confirmed in that Dignity by the Golden Bull of *Charles* IV.

When the Kingdom of *Bohemia* became part of the Dominions of the House of *Austria*, that House was invested with this Electorate, which is now in Possession of *Charles III.* King of *Spain, &c.*

It takes its Name from the Office of Count *Palatine*, or *Palsgrave*, who is to administer Justice in the Empire, sometimes by Authority from the Emperor, and also with the Duke of *Saxony* on the other side the *Rhine*, and the Elector of *Bavaria* as Vicars-Generals of the Empire, who are to exercise Imperial Authority when the Empire wants a Chief or Emperor, which is a very great Power invested in this Family, and inclines me to think, that tho' other Electors take place of him, yet the Electors of the *Rhine* and *Saxony* are above all the rest; because as Vicars of the Empire, they can do all that is in the Emperor's Power during the Vacancy of the Throne, except giving Investiture to those that hold great Territories. Histories, or Lordships in Fee of the Empire, without being subject to give an Account of their Administrations; and which is most considerable, 'Tis the Elector *Palatin* can redeem what the Emperor was to be sold or mortgaged, at the same Value for which it was sold or engaged; and which is yet more, the Emperor may be convened for Debt before this Elector. But if the Emperor be accused of Male-Administration, then the Judgment belongs to the Electoral College, but the Electors make the *Palatin* direct the Process, and not the Elector of *Mentz*, tho' he be Dean of the Electoral College: By Marriages, Fiefs, and Imperial Gifts, the Elector *Palatin* came to have very large Dominions, and quietly enjoyed them for several Ages, being also the first Secular Elector of the Empire, when there is no King of *Bohemia* to vote as such, admitted the Elector *Frederick III.* espousing the Protestant Religion in the Year 1576, and making his Country a Retreat for the Protestants; as also the



the taking the Crown of *Bohemia* into that Family by *Frederick* began a War, which continuing above 30 Years, much wasted his Estates, and deprived that Elector of all his Lands and Dignities in the Empire, which were given to the Duke of *Bavaria*, and only an Allowance or Pension out of it. *Charles* the lawful Successor, at the Peace of *Prague* but at length, by the Peace at *Munster* and *Osna* *Tho* *burg* in 1648 the lower *Palatinate* and *Bergstrasse* were restored to him, and at the same time he was constituted the Eighth Elector, and chief *Tre* *Jurer* of the Empire. The Elector of *Bavaria* the Dominions had the Precedence claimed by this Electorate, but being now for his Rebellion under the Ban of the Empire, the Elector *Palatine* was restor'd both to his Precedence and Dominions.

As to the Origin of the Elector, this House produced many Emperors, the chief Branch being extinct in the Male Line of *Frederick V.* King of *Bohemia* and Elector *Palatin*, the Electorate to the second Branch, the House of *Newburg*, whom is the present Elector *John William Joseph* The Duke of *Saxony* has the sixth place among the Electors. *Charlemain* at several times warred against these Saxons Thirty Years before he could subdue them, and afterward made *Wittikind* Duke of *Saxony* upon his embracing the Christian Faith, from whom are descended all the Kings of *France* since *Hugh Capet*: also the Kings of *Denmark* of the House of *Oldenburg*, the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Savoy*, the Marqueses of *Montferat*, and many other noble Families of lesser Quality; and the Dukedom is still in the same Family, notwithstanding an Interruption of 200 Years, from 1118 to 1423. *Augustus* King of *Poland*, the present Duke, is the Thirty-ninth from *Wittikindus*, the Fourteenth since the Restitution of the Line the richest as well as the most ancient of all the

Princ  
Electoral  
Princ

above Princes of the *Electoral* College; by Right of  
 prive Birth he is *High-Marshal*, or Master of the Horse  
 in the of the *Empire*. His abjuring his Religion, and  
*Bavaria* what Variety of Fortune he has met with, is so  
 of it well known, we shall not enlarge on it in this  
*Prague* place.

Tho' this House is of great Antiquity, yet it *Elector of*  
 owes its Grandeur to the Emperor *Sigismund*, *Branden-*  
 who about the Year 1415, with the Consent of *burg*.  
 the States, gave the perpetual Investiture of this  
 Electorate to *Frederick II.* of *Nuremberg*, from  
 whom is descended the present *Elector Frederick*  
*I.* King of *Prussia*, *Elector of Brandenburg*.  
 is the most powerful Prince in the *Empire*,  
 next the House of *Austria*, and is an *Elector* of  
 the *Empire*.

This *Electorate* being erected in our Times in *Elector of*  
 honour of *Ernestus*, Father of the present *Elector* *Hanover*.  
*George William* *Elector of Hanover*, and after a  
 long Dispute entirely settled, but so lately, as his  
 Highness's taking on him the Command of the  
 Army of the *Empire*, we shall only observe fur-  
 ther, that as *Elector* he is Arch-Treasurer of the  
*Empire*.

We have shewed already that the King of the  
*Romans* elected during the Life of the *Emperor*,  
 in his Absence perpetual Vicar-General of  
 the *Empire*, and as his Quality of Vicar-General  
 does not but by his Elevation to the Imperial  
 Dignity, which immediately follows the Death  
 of the *Emperor*, so it follows that the Vicars-Ge-  
 neral cannot exercise their Functions when  
 there is a King of the *Romans*, but must wait for  
 the Interregnum; but when there is no King of  
 the *Romans* elected, they may exercise their Offi-  
 ces as soon as the *Emperor* is deceased.

Before the *Elector of Bavaria* was invested with  
 the *Electoral* Dignity, that anciently belonged to  
 the *Elector Palatine*, the Prince *Palatine*, and the  
 Duke

Duke of Saxony, were the two sole Vicars of the Empire; but since the Treaty of *Münster*, where in it was Decreed, That the Electoral Dignity that the Princes Palatine had formerly possess'd with all the Rights, Regalities, Offices, precedencies, Ornaments, Arms, and Rights whatsoever should continue to the Lord Maximilian, Count Palatine Duke of Bavaria, and his Children the Elector of Bavaria pretends that this Vicariate belongs to him exclusive of the Prince Palatine and that the Terms of the Treaty had decided the Question in his Favour. the Elector Palatine on the contrary has always maintain'd, that the Vicariate was not annexed to the Electoral Dignity, but to the Count Palatine of the Rhine agreeable to the Ancient Custom and the Golden Bull, which expressly saith, That the Count Palatine of the Rhine is Vicar of the Empire, in regard of his Principality, or by virtue of the Privileges which particularly affects the Palatinate, and that it cannot pass into another Family. However the Duke of Bavaria, after the Death of Ferdinand the Third, In 1657. being assisted by other Electors, carried it against the Elector Palatine. The Powers of these Vicars, are to name Persons to Benefices, have the Rights of the Regalia, call'd *Jus Primarium precum*, to receive the Revenues of the Demesnes of the Empire and dispose of it to the Publick Advantage; and in short, to do all the Emperor himself could do in Person.

The Secular Electors have every one a Vicar to assist them in the discharge of the great Offices of the Imperial Crown, which are annexed to their Electorates. These Vicars are Hereditary Officers of the Empire, and exercise all the Powers of the Princes they represent in their absence, exclusive of their Ambassadors. The King of Bohemia's Vicar is the Baron of Limburg. The Elector of Bavaria's is one of the Family



of *Waltburg*; The Elector of *Saxony's* is Count *Papenheim*; the Elector of *Brandenburg's* is Count *Hoenzollern*; the Elector *Palatin's* is Count *Sinzendorf*; But there has been some Alterations made that we cannot account for at this time; and the Elector of *Hannover's* is Count——

When the *Electors* are in Person at the Election of an *Emperor*, or at other Solemnities, they discharge their Offices themselves, as it is directed in the 27th Chapter of the *Golden Bull*, and their *Vicars* only attend at the Gates of the City of *Francfort*, to assist their *Electors* in mounting and dismounting their Horses, for which little Service, they are rewarded with the Horse the Elector rides on, and the Plate which he is serv'd with in the exercise of his Office; but when the *Electors* are absent, the *Vicars* serve the *Emperor* in the Offices that the *Electors* should do if they were Present. The Office of *High-Treasurer* of the *Empire* conferr'd upon the *Electors* *Palatin*, but now in the Elector of *Hannover*, has been settled since the Treaty of *Westphalia*, and therefore it will not be amiss to shew in what it consists; which principally is in distributing *Medals* by the way of *Largess*, and throws pieces of *Gold* and *Silver* among the People at the end of the Coronation of the *Emperor*, or the King of the *Romans*.

*Honours paid the Bishop of Bamberg.*

Here we must not forget to declare, that among all the Offices of the *Vicars*, that belonging to the *High Marshal* of the *Empire*, has the greatest Employment; for in the Absence of that *Electors*, he has the care of Lodging the Princes and other Estates of the *Empire*, of introducing the *Emperor* into the Hall of Audience, or the Assembly. He also prepares the Throne, and ranges the Seats of the *Electors*, the Princes, and the Deputies of the Cities. He gives them notice at what Hour the Assembly will be held; calls them one after another; takes their

*of an Interregnum or Vacancy.*

their Suffrages in the Assembly, counts their Voices ; sets the Guards at the City Gates where the Election is made, at the Chambers where the *Electors* are Lodged, and at the Assembly, and keeps the Keys of the Doors when they are shut, with several other Offices, too tedious to be rehearsed.

To the Office of the first four *Electors* are annexed Honours, that methinks should make the receivers blush to think on, as well as make Strangers admire to hear of, and these are, That the greatest Princes in the Empire, are Hereditary Officers to the Bishop of *Bamberg*. The King of *Bohemia* is his great *Cup-bearer*, and the Lord of *Aussus* is his *Vicar*. The Duke of *Bavaria* is his great Master, and his *Vicar* is the Lord of *Truchses*. The Duke of *Saxony*, the now King of *Poland*, is his *Grand Marshal*, and the Duke of *Brandenburg*, now King of *Prussia*, is his *High Chamberlain*, and all of them pay Homage to the Bishop of *Bamberg*. The Duke of *Bavaria* being under the Ban of Empire, has no more right to any Electoral Privileges than an *Out-law* to an Estate. The *Electors* of *Brunswick* being a new Creation, we can't tell how he is Honour'd in the Bishop of *Bamberg's* Service.

Manner of  
choosing an  
Emperor.

Now, as we have said, that the great Prerogative that the *Electors* have above the rest of the Princes, is, that they have the Power to elect the *Emperor* ; let us see after what Methods they proceed. As soon as the *Electors* of *Mentz* has receiv'd advice of the Vacancy of the Throne, he is oblig'd as *High-Chancellor* of the Empire, and Dean of the *Electoral College*, to give notice of it to his Colleagues, that in a Month they may appear at *Francfort* to elect a new *Emperor*. When the *Electors* or their Ambassadors are arriv'd at *Francfort*, they ought not to enter, according to the *Golden Bull*, with

above

above 200 Horse, and of those, not above Fifty to be Arm'd ; but these orders are quite laid aside, and there is not an *Elect*or that comes to an Election, with less than Five Hundred Horse. As soon as they are Assembled, they admit no Stranger or suspected Persons into the City during the Election, and put out those that had entred before they came. They take the Oaths of the Magistrates and the City Militia, and oblige the People under the Penalty of being deprived of their *Privileges*, and put to the *Ban*, to watch for their Security, that they may not be Insulted. The next Day, they meet in the Place appointed for the Election, only to Complement one another upon their safe Arrival. Then they take Horse in their Electoral Habits, and passing through the midst of the Citizens who are in their Arms, proceed to St. *Bartholomew's* Church, two and two ; first, the Electors of *Mentz* and *Triers* ; secondly, those of *Cologne* and *Bohemia* ; then those of *Bavaria*, *Saxony*, and *Hanover* ; and the last are those of *Brandenburg* and the *Palatine*. When they come to the Church, they Dismount, enter in the same Order, and take their Places in the Choir ; those of *Mentz*, *Bohemia*, *Saxony*, and *Hanover*, on the Right ; and those of *Cologne*, *Bavaria*, *Brandenburg*, and the *Palatine*, on the Left ; and he of *Triers* alone in the middle of the Place. As soon as they are plac'd, some Princes, Earls, and the Counsellors of the Electors, enter also ; and then the Door is shut by the Count *Panpenheim*, who keeps the Keys.

They begin Prayers with the Hymn *Veni Creator, Spiritus*, according as 'tis prescrib'd by the *Golden Bull* : Then they say the *Mass* following ; when they begin with *Per omnia secula seculorum*, the Protestant Princes or their Ambassadors re-

E

tire,

*The Manner of Elections.*



tire, and don't return till *Mass* is ended. Then they approach the Altar, to take the Oath following. The Elector of *Meniz* takes it first; the Book being held, the Elector of *Cologn*; and *Mentz* turning his Face to the People, reads the Oath with a loud Voice; then takes the Book from the Elector of *Cologn*, administers the same Oath to the rest of the Electors. In taking the Oath, the Ecclesiasticks lay their Hands upon their Breasts, and the Secular Princes upon the *Evangelists*. The Oath is, *That without regard, Solicitations, Promises or Rewards, they will chuse such a Person to be Emperor, as they think in their Consciencs is fit to govern the World*; supposing always that he is endowed with the requisite Qualifications, viz. That he is a Christian Prince, of the *German* Nation or Extraction, not less than 28 Years of Age, and capable to sustain the Character of *Imperial Majesty*. According to the *Golden Bull*, they ought to conclude the Oath with these Words, *So God and all his Saints help help me*; but in respect to the Protestants, they have chang'd them, *So help me God and the Holy Evangelists*.

From hence the *Electors* pass into the *Conclave*; which is a kind of Vaulted Gallery, joining to the Quire of the Church, and appointed for the Election. Having taken their Places, Count *Papenheim*, or his Vicar, locks the Door, and lays the Keys in a Place where the *Electors* may be Masters of them when they please. Now they begin their Deliberations, and because the *Golden Bull* gives them but a Months time to make their Choice, under the Pain of being reduced to Bread and Water, without any other Nourishment, for as long as they shall exceed that time, they have found a way, if there be occasion, to prolong their Sessions, without derogating

gating from the *Golden Bull*, and that is by distinguishing between their *Deliberations* and their *Resolutions*; and so gain as much time as they please, to order the Affairs of the Empire that come before them.

One of the Principal things that requires their *The Capitulation.* mature *Deliberations*, is the *Capitulation*, which ought to be Signed by the future Emperor at his Election, which is to be the Rule and Standard of his Government during his whole Reign, which proved to be so during the whole Administration. When the Electors come to *Opine*, he of *Triers* is the first that gives his Suffrage; then the Elector of *Cologne*, the King of *Bohemia*, the Elector of *Bavaria*, *Saxony*, *Brandenburg*, the *Palatine*, *Hanover*, and last of all the Elector of *Mentz*, who decides the Election by Majority of Voices. No Elector can send his Suffrage in Writing, but his Plenipotentiary must do it in the Assembly; tho' he may say thus, *If that Prince to whom I have given my Voice, will not accept the Imperial Dignity, I will give my Suffrage to another.* Every Elector has the Liberty to give his Voice for his *Son* or his *Brother*, but not for himself; but after his Colleagues have given theirs, he is free to fortify it by his own, and to conclude the Election in his own Favour. And when the Election is lawfully made by the greatest part of the Electors, they pass it into an Act, which being Sign'd by the Electors, Register'd, and converted into Letters Patents, Seal'd with the Seals of every Elector, it is the Emperor's *Title* to the Government of the Empire.

Then the Electors appoint the Manner and *The Time and Place for the Coronation.* Time for his being Proclaim'd, but if the Prince that is Elected be absent, they send Ambassadors to him, to acquaint him with his being

Elected, and upon what Conditions he is Chosen, praying him to accept it, or rather come and take Possession of the Imperial Crown. This happen'd upon the Election of *Charles V.* who was then in *Spain*. But if the new Elected Emperor be in the Assembly, the Electors go with him from the Conclave to the Church, where, after Prayers, the Archbishop of *Mentz* causes him to Sign the Capitulation of the Altar, with a promise to confirm to the Electors all the Rights, Privileges and Preheminiences they enjoy, as soon as he is Crown'd, and enters upon the Government of the Empire. From the Altar they conduct him to a Tribunal in the Chair, where being sate, the Elector of *Mentz* orders the Great Dean, or some other Canon of the Chptpr of *Mentz*, to publish his Election; which being ended with Shouts of Joy, and the Noise of Trumpets and Timbals, they retire, and the Electors conduct the Emperor to his Palace.

The Electors pretend to the Right of appointing Time and Place for the Emperor's Coronation, and for giving all the necessary Orders to this purpose. *Aix la Chappelle* was anciently the Place, in Memory of *Charles* the Great, who had a Kindness for it, and made it the Place of his Residence; but of late that Ceremony has been perform'd, for ceatain Reasons, at other Places; and *Leopold I.* Emperor, was Crown'd at *Francfort*, by the Archbishop of *Cologne* and the two other Electoral Ecclesiasticks, in 1658.

We shall in the next Place treat of the King of the *Romans* and the *Electors*. When the *Electors* are agreed upon the time and place of the Coronation, and the Elector of *Mentz* hath given notice to the Magistrates of *Aix* and *Nurembug*, to bring or send by their Deputies all the Imperial Ornaments that are in their Custody,



study, viz. Those of *Nuremburg*, *Charlemain's Crown of Gold*, weighing fourteen Pounds, the *Ring*, the *Scepter*, the *Globe*, the *Shoes*, and the *Sword*, which they say an Angel gave to *Charlemain*, a long *Albe*, a *Stole*, a *Cope* with a *Girdle*. Those of *Aix la Chapelle*, a *Cup* cover'd with *Diamonds*, wherein was kept a little of *St. Stephen's Blood*, the common *Sword* of *Charlemain*, with his *Belt* and *Book*, and the *Evangelists* written in Letters of Gold. Then having hang'd the great Church with *Tapestry*, where the Solemnity is to be perform'd, and made Seats for the Emperor, the Electors, the Princes, the Ambassadors and other Assistants; the Ecclesiastical Electors, with the Bishops and other Prelates that are to Officiate, come in the Morning to the Church, where the Deputies of *Aix* and those of *Nuremburg* deliver into their Hands the Imperial Ornaments. Then the *Secular* Electors, or their Ambassadors in their Robes, accompany the Emperor from his Palace to the Church; the Elector of *Bavaria* carrying the *Globe*, on his Right the Elector of *Brandenburg* carrying the *Scepter*, and on his left the Elector *Palatin* carrying the *Crown*: Immediately before the Emperor, went the Elector of *Saxony* alone, carrying the Imperial Sword naked, where he Officiates in Person, and his Hereditary Marshal carries the *Scabbard*; and when this Elector is not upon the Place, his Marshal carries the Sword before him in the *Scabbard*.

A Moment before the Emperor comes to the Church, the Ecclesiastical Electors go out of the Vestry, and walk before him in Procession with the *Bishops*, *Abbots*, and *Chaplains*, to the Church Door; The Elector, who is to perform the Ceremony in his Pontifical Habits, with a *Mitre* upon his Head, and a *Cross* in his Hand, and the other Electors in their Habits. As soon as they

perceive the Emperor, the Elector that Officiates begins to Sing, *Adjutorium nostrum in Nomine Domini*, Our help is in the Name of the Lord, and after says the Prayer, *Omipotens sempiterne Deus*, Almighty and Everlasting God, &c. After this he turns himself and goes to the *Alter*, and the two other Ecclesiastical Electors, putting the Emperor between them, Conduct him to his *Pew* before the *Altar*, where being on his Knees, the Electors also take their Places, leaving the Imperial Ornaments under the Guard of their Hereditary Officers.

The Ceremony begins with the Prayer, *Domine, Salvum fac Regem*, O Lord! save the King, and is follow'd by the Ordinary Prayers, which being ended, the *Mass* of the *Epiphany* is Celebrated. Then they Conduct the Emperor to the *Altar*, and he Kneeling upon the uppermost Step, the Chaplains Sing the *Litany* to this Verse, *Ut nos exaudire digneris*; which being over, they continue the particular Prayers for the *Emperor*, to which the *Choir* make their *Responsals*: That being finish'd, the Emperor stands up, and the Officiating Elector with a *Mitre* on his Head, and a *Cross* in his Hand, makes these Six Demands to the Emperor. *Will you continue in the Holy Faith which is taught by the Catholics, and confirm it by good Works?* To which the Emperor Answers, *Yes, I will.* 2. *Will you be a Faithful Guardian and Protector of the Holy Church and its Servants?* The Emperor Answers, *I will.* 3. *Will you govern the Empire Justly that God has given you?* Ans. *I will.* 4. *Will you preserve the Empire in its Just Rights, Recover its Estates, and Faithfully employ them to the benefit of the Publick?* Ans. *I will.* 5. *Will you Judge Equitably between the Poor and the Rich: Faithfully defend the Widows and Orphans?* Ans. *I will.* 6. *Will you submit and Adhere to the most Holy*

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*Holy Father in Christ, the Pope of Rome, and to the Holy Catholick Apostolick and Roman Church: Ans. I will.* Then the Emperor approaches to the Altar, and Confirms his Answers by this Oath following, which he reads in Latin: *I will Perform all that has been propos'd to me, God and the Faithful assisting me, and will Faithfully and Truly Accomplish what I have promised, God and his Holy Gospel being my Helper.* That done; the Officiating Bishop turns to the Assistants and Demands of them in Latin. *Will you accept this Prince to be your Emperor, and will you be Faithful to him?* To which they Answer Thrice: *We will, we will, we will:* These Words being uttered, the Emperor Kneels while the Arch-Bishop says this Prayer. *Lord who at all times governest Kingdoms, Bless our King N. and make these People Obedient and Faithful to him.* Then the Arch-Bishop's Suffragans undress the Emperor, and the Arch-Bishop takes the Holy Oil, saying, *Pax tecum, Peace be with you,* to which the Emperor Answers, *Et cum Spiritu tuo,* and then Anoint and Cross the Crown of his Head, between his Shoulders, on the Neck, the Breast, the Wrist of the Right Arm, and last his Right Hand; at every Unction repeating the Prayer in the Ritual appointed on this Occasion. Then the Emperor is invested with the Imperial Robes, the Sandals and Buskins; afterwards he is Girt with a Sword and Belt of Charles the Great, and at giving it into his Hands, the Arch-Bishop gives him his Benediction, and then says, *Take this Sword, and by virtue of this Blessing employ it in the Defence of God's Church, from whose Goodness you have received it.* Then the Secular Electors put the Ring upon his Finger, the Globe into his Left Hand, the Scepter into his Right Hand, and the Ecclesiastical Electors



set the Crown upon his Head. *Mas*s being ended, they place the *Emperor* upon a *Throne*, where a Chair being set instead of that of *Charlemain*, which is still kept at *Aix*, the *Ecclesiastical Electors* pronounce these Words; *Take and keep Possession of this Place, which was reserv'd for you, not by any Hereditary Right, nor that of Paternal Succession, but only by the Suffrages of the German Electors, the Providence of Almighty God, and our Succession*: And the *Emperor* and the *Electors* return in the same State to his *Palace*. But to give a more particular Idea of this great Ceremony, we shall describe the Coronation of the *Emperor Leopoldus* at *Frankfort*, A. D. 1658.

All Strangers of what Quality or Condition soever, had Intimation given them three days before to get out of the City upon that day, except they belong'd to any of the *Electors*, or their *Ministers*, or were to discharge any Office in that Ceremony: Which Order being obeyed by the *Spanish* and *French* Ambassadors, as likewise by his Holiness's *Nuntio*, and the rest, the City Gates were shut up, and the *Burghers* in Arms were distributed in several places of the City. At the appointed hour the *Electors* being come into the *Vestry* to cloath themselves in the respective Habits of their Dignity, repaired to the Cathedral Church on Horseback, after a very numerous Train of Servants and Footmen: In the first Rank were the *Electors* of *Mentz* and *Triers*; in the second, those of *Colcu* and *Bohemia*; in the third, those of *Saxony* and the *Palatine*, and in the fourth the Ambassador of *Bavaria* and *Brandenburgh*, their Masters being absent, without any Marshals before them.

When they were arrived in the great Church, and had taken their Seats prepared on purpose for them, amongst which that of *Triers* was placed

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ced in the middle, the Bishop of *Worms* sung the Mass of the Holy Ghost, and at the Elevation of the Blessed Sacrament the Protestant Deputies withdrew. Afterwards the accustomed Oath of Election was administred upon the *Missal*, the Elector of *Mentz* giving it into the Hands of that of *Triers*, and he with all the rest into the Hands of the first: Then the Church being shut up by *Papenheim*, the Marshal of the Empire, they retired into the Sacristy; where the Votes being then given, according to the Form prescribed in the *Bulla Carolina*, *Leopoldus* of *Austria* King of *Hungary* and *Bohemia* was elected *nemine contradicente* King of the *Romans*, and then each Elector calling five or six of his principal Ministers, a publick Instrument was drawn to certify the Election, and the new elected King, walking between the Electors of *Triers* and *Coleu*, he of *Mentz* preceding, and the others following, they brought him to the great Altar, and after some Prayers (pronounced by the aforementioned Bishop of *Worms*) they placed him upon it, that he might receive the Acclamations of the People, who had the News given them in the mean while by the *Prepositus* of the Cathedral of *Mentz*, ascended on a Pulpit erected for that purpose hard by the Church Gate, which was wide opened, and the Plebeians admitted to make their Acclamations. After this the new elected Emperor did swear to the Observation of the Articles prescribed to him; then the *Electors* coming from their Places, accompany'd *Cesar* to his Apartments in the following Order.

First of all (after a great Multitude of Footmen, Lackeys and Courtiers) march'd four Heralds, with the Arms of *Austria*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, and the *Empire* upon their Breasts; then the Ambassadors of *Bavaria*, and *Brandenburg* richly

richly mounted rode in the first Rank, follow'd by the Elector of *Triers* alone, after whom came the Prince of *Hoenzollern* hereditary Chamberlain (instead of *Brandenburg*) with the Sceptre and the Elector *Palatine* great Treasurer with the Imperial Crown, and the Earl of *Zaik* hereditary *Trouckses* or *Sewer*, (instead of *Bavaria*) with the Globe. Then follow'd after likewise on Horseback the Elector Duke of *Saxony* great Marshall with the great naked Sword in his hand, preceded by the Earl of *Papenheim* hereditary Marshal with the Scabbard, and after his Electoral Highness, came the Person of the elected Emperor, with the two Electors of *Mentz* and *Colen* on each side of him.

Being come in this Order to his Majesty's Palace, they all took leave of him, and returned every one to his Quarter, distributing the necessary Commissions for the Preparation of the Solemnity of the Coronation: After this, his Majesty entertain'd the Electors at a most magnificent Feast; and on the second of *August* the Ceremony of putting the Imperial Diamond upon his Head was perform'd in the same City of *Frankfort*, and not in *Aquisgrane*, as the *Bulla* orders it; which was occasion'd not only by a Fire that had happen'd there a few Months before, by which it was made incapable to entertain so many great Princes and their Retinue, but likewise by the Differences then on foot between the Arch-bishops Electors of *Mentz*, and *Colen*, upon the Right of Crowning the new elected King of the *Romans*; the first usurping it to themselves, under pretence that the Predecessors of the present Arch-bishop of *Colen* had forfeited this Right by neglecting to perform it; but the latter, alledging that the Reason why they had not performed it was only because they

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they were not Priests, challenged and obtained by way of friendly Composition the Reintegration of the said Right; but upon Condition, that in case from that time forward this Solemnity should happen to be celebrated in the Diocess of *Mentz*, the prerogative of Crowning should then belong to the Archbishop of the same, and if in another Place, the said Office should be alternately performed by them.

Early in the Morning, the Burghers of the City being all in Arms, and having laid a Bridge of Boards cover'd with four thousand Braces of Black, White, and Yellow Cloth, two of the principal Canons of *Mentz* and *Colen*, with a great number of Attendants and Followers, came to the Imperial Palace, and with a most elegant Speech, deliver'd unto his Majesty the Crown of *Charles* the Great, which was accepted and receiv'd with Expressions of Thanks. Almost at the same time the two Secular Electors arrived there, with a great number of Guards, and a noble Retinue, clothed in their Robes and Bonnets belonging to their Dignity, together with the Ambassadors of *Bavaria* and *Brandenburg*, to accompany the King to the Cathedral Church, which they did in the self same order as was observed before, only there was added a very rich Canopy, carried by the eldest Magistrates of the City, under which his Majesty marched to the Church Gate, where he was met and received by the three Ecclesiastick Electors in their Pontifical Robes, of whom that of *Colen* celebrated the Divine Office, his Majesty placing himself under a Majestical Throne that was erected on the Epistle side; and after him the Electors, over against whom, in a place almost even with it, was placed his Holiness's *Nuntio*, and the Ambassadors of *Spain*, *Penaranda*,

*da*, and *la Fuente*, and after them the Princes Assistants.

When Mass was ended, and the accustomed Oath taken by the new *Cesar*, in the Hands of the Elector of *Colen*, with the Assistance of the other two, he was by the same Archbishop anointed and inaugurated King of the *Romans*, then being brought into the Vestry, he put off the Electoral Robe, and put on the Royal Mantle, returning back again with it to the Altar, where he girded himself with the Sword of the said Emperor *Charles the Great*, put the Ring on his Finger, and took the Scepter and the Globe in his Hands, and then bowing down received the Crown, which was put on his Head jointly by the three Ecclesiastick Electors; then having sung the *Te Deum*, with the Discharge of all the Guns and Artillery, and the Elector that said Mass having given the Benediction, His Imperial Majesty ascended on a little Scaffold erected in the said Church, and created 14 Knights of the Empire, giving each of them three light Strokes with the Imperial Sword upon the Shoulders.

This being done, the Procession marched again to the Town-Hall, leaving the Cloth that cover'd the abovementioned Bridge to be seized by the People; and the two Electors of *Mentz* and *Colen* held the Train of the Imperial Mantle. When his Imperial Majesty was come to the Town-hall, the Elector of *Saxony*, as supreme Marshal, gave Order that the Meat should be brought to Table; and in the interim, being mounted upon a curious Horse, and riding into a great Heap of Oates placed before the *Pratorium*, he performed the Ceremony of filling a Silver Pot to the brim with Oates, and then struck it with a Silver Rod; when this was over he gave it to his Substitute the Earl of *Papenheim*, leaving the rest to the People.

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People. Afterwards appeared the *Elector Palatine*, Great Treasurer of the Empire, scattering and flinging Medals of Gold among the People; and was followed by the Earl of *Sinzendorf*, Treasurer hereditary, who likewise distributed Silver Medals; and the Earl of *Zaill* hereditary *Trouckses* or *Sewer*, in the name of the Elector of *Bavaria* cut off a piece of a whole Ox that was roasted in the *Piazza*, and carried it into the *Pratorium*, leaving the rest to the People; and the Prince of *Hoenzollern* hereditary Chamberlain, in the room of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, held the *Bason* for the Emperor to wash his Hands.

Thus having all discharged their several Offices, his Imperial Majesty laid the Imperial Robes upon a Table prepared for the same purpose, and sat down to Dinner under an elevated Throne not far distant from which, some Steps lower, were the Places for the Electors. The first on the right Hand was for him of *Mentz*, then for *Bohemia*, *Bavaria*, and *Brandenburgh* absent; that in the middle of the Hall for *Triers*, and on the left for *Colen*, *Saxony*, and the *Palatine*: even with the Floor there was placed another Table for the Princes of *Worms*, *Lobcowitz*, and *Ausburg*: With this Order his Majesty began his Dinner, after the Benediction given by the Elector of *Mentz*, who as great Chancellour did wear the Imperial Seal hanging about his Neck; and after a short space of time the Baron of *Limburg*, Cupbearer hereditary, solemnly presented unto his Majesty a Cup to drink, as a Substitute of the Elector King of *Bohemia*. After this his Majesty's Health was drunk, not only by the noble Guests in the Room, but by the common People also, to whom by a spread Eagle erected in the Yard of the *Pratorium*, both white and red Wine was very plentifully dispensed; as likewise a suffi-



sufficient Quantity of Bread during the whole time of the Dinner, which lasted for the space of four Hours; After which, *Cesar* being accompanied home by the Electors, the Entertainment concluded.

*The Crown  
of Lombardy*

When the Kingdom of *Italy* was reputed part of the Empire, the *German* Emperors were also Crowned, with the Crown of *Lombardy*, which is made of Gold, and adorn'd with Diamonds, but having a little Band of polish'd Iron within it, gave it the Name of the *Iron Crown*; but now dispence with that Journey, and also that of being Crown'd at *Rome*, without any abatement of their Ancient Rights to those Crowns; for it is settled by a known Law made at *Francfort*, Anno. 1338, and again at *Cologne*, Anno. 1339, that the first Election and Coronation of *Germany* supplied those Omissions, and invested the Emperor with all the Rights and Dignities of the *Roman* and *German* Empire. The Emperor being thus Elected and Crown'd by the Princes Electors of the Empire, and Confirm'd by the *Pope*, has the Quality of *Sovereign Monarch*, the first Prince in *Christendom*, and all things are done in his Name, tho' at the same time the whole Empire acts in general. He has Authority to Convoke *Dyets*, and other Imperial Assemblies, and to Prorogue or Dissolve them. The Resolutions of the Council and the Arrests of the Imperial Chambers, and the Court, are Executed in his Name. He Confirms all *Foreign Alliances* and *Treaties*, Confers Ecclesiastical Preferments, not by the *Popes* Concession, as Ecclesiasticks would Suggest; but by an *Immemorial* Right, ever since there were Bishops in the Empire. He has also the Power of Conferring Secular Dignities, as those of *King*, *Prince*, *Arch-Duke*, *Duke*, *Marquis*, *Landgrave*, *Earl* and *Baron*: Thus *Henry 2d.* erected the

*The Emperor's Authority.*

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*Duchy of Hungaria* into a Kingdom, in favour of *Steven*, who was then but a Duke *Ladislaus*, Duke of *Bohemia*, was made King of *Bohemia* by the Emperor *Henry* the Fourth: The same Examples of the Imperial Authority might be shew'd in all other Degrees and Titles, which extends not only to the Subjects of the Empire, but also to Strangers, as *John* Earl of *Arundel* was made a Count of the Empire by *Rudolphus* 2d. the Grandfather to the Dutches of *Shrewsbury*; Sir *Robert Dudley*, was made Duke of *Northumberland* by *Ferdinand* 2d. in 1620. and to give a late Example, *Charles* Grandville Viscount *Landsdown* Baron *Granville* of *Kilkhamton*, was created a Count of the Sacred Roman Empire, by the Emperor *Leopold*. But the greatest Honour ever done to a Foreign Subject, is that paid lately by the Emperor *Leopold*, to his Grace the Duke &c. of *Marlborough*, by giving him a Vote in the Colledge of Princes, as Prince of *Mindelheim*.

The Emperor has the Right of deciding the Precedency among the Princes and Estates of the Empire, the Power of Life and Death; granting Pardon to Criminals, and disposing the Offices of the Court and the Empire, excepting that of the Imperial Chancellor, which belongs to the Elector of *Mentz*. Coins Money, Grants Fairs and Markets, Receives and Disposes the Revenues of the Empire; and has the Right of Reassuming the Estates and Revenues of the Empire which have been Usurpt or Alienated; but the Chief of all the Rights he Possesses, is the Disposition of the Estates and Principalities that fall to the Empire, by Forfeiture or otherwise.

But he cannot raise New Taxes, or lay Impositions upon the People, without the Consent of the Neighbouring Estates, and the Unanimous Agreement of all the Electors by Majority of Voices, What he cannot do.

Voices, nor can he put any Prince to the Imperial *Ban*, confiscate his *Estate*, or deprive him of his Voice in *Dyets*, nor *Alienate* the *Estates* or *Revenues* of the Empire, without the Approbation of the Electors and the other Princes and *Estates*: And tho' all things being acted in his Name, has led some People to think his power is greater than in Truth and Reality it is; He cannot alter the Establish'd Religion, nor make and publish New Laws, or Abolish Old ones; nor suppress the Courts of Justice, nor raise the Price of Money, alter Weights and Measures, nor denounce War, either within or without the Empire, except upon Pressing Occasions, in pure Defence of his own Person, and before a *Dyets* can be Assembled. Nor can he by his own Authority impose Subsidies, Taxes, or general Contributions, raise Men, Quarter his Troops, build New Fortresses, or make Peace without the Consent of the *Estates* of the Empire; for they having by woful Experience observ'd that many Emperors had attempted to make themselves *Absolute*, and their Subjects Slaves to their Wills and Pleasures; they made the Imperial Dignity subject to such necessary Restrictions, as might secure the Empire in their Rights, without Danger of falling under an Arbitrary Power. This happy End they obtained by capitulating with their Emperors before their Election, and obliging them to consent to such Proposals as they thought necessary for their own Safety, otherwise they would not elect them; by which means I say they regained the Rights which are and must be observed to Perpetuity. These Proceedings were in nature of a Contract between the Empire and Emperor before his Election, and were ratified in the first place after he was proclaimed, which continues as a Barrier to the Emperor's

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Authority, prevents him from assuming, and the People from falling under a Despotick Power, and renders their Government a kind of a mixt Monarchy, as has been observed already. This Contract or Capitulation was originally the Essence of their Constitution, but being impaired by degrees, as their Emperors increased in Power, it was introduced *de novo*, under the Reign of the Emperor *Charles V.* who having large Dominions out of the Empire, the Electors apprehended he might infringe and prejudice the Liberties of *Germany*, and therefore made these Conditions an irrevocable Law, which the Emperor submitted to, and have continued in force ever since.

The *Demesns* of the Empire, which under *Frederick I.* were valued at 18 Millions of Livres, are reduced almost to nothing but what is raised by Taxes, Subsidies, Customs, and such like Impositions; it was little better in *Charles IV.* Reign, who told the Deputies, the Estates of the Empire sent to him, that he received a much greater Revenue from *Bohemia* than all the rest of the Empire: And Cardinal *Granville* said to the Landgrave of *Hesse*, that *Charles V.* his Master drew no Profit from the Empire, and that the *German* Princes ought to esteem it their Happiness to have a Monarch who was able by his own Estate to maintain the Imperial Dignity. At that time there was but one City which belonged to the Emperor as Emperor, for all the Lands were divided among the Electors, Princes, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Lords, and free Cities; so that when the Emperor came into those Parts, the Bishop of *Bamberg* withdrew from his own House to give the Emperor entertainment.

This Representation of the Weakness of the Empire, in respect to its Revenues, would tempt one to enquire why the House of *Austria* should strive with so much Zeal and Care to preserve the

*Why the House of Austria covers the Empire.*

the Imperial Crown in their Family, since they draw so little Profit from the *Demesn*, but this Objection will soon vanish, when we consider they enjoy many real and solid Advantages which supply Pecuniary Defects, tho' they are less apparent and visible; for besides the Glory of being the first Prince in Christendom, he has the Power of disposing all forfeited Estates and Honours to the Profit of his own Children, the only means of aggrandizing his House and putting them into a Possibility of changing the elective Empire into a Hereditary Monarchy.

We have already seen how many large Territories have by this means fallen to the House of *Austria*, so that there is no cause to wonder why that House should endeavour to perpetuate the Imperial Crown in their Family, tho' the Revenues of that Dignity are not proportionable to those of other neighbouring Nations; for besides the ordinary and extraordinary Duties and Impositions arising from the Imperial Cities, and otherwise, the Revenues are now very great, and if it may be said they are but poor Emperors, the Objection is answered, by saying they are rich and potent Princes, and able to turn the Scales to their own Advantage.

*Investi-  
tures to  
Benefices.*

One of the principal Powers reserved to the Emperor, is the Investiture of all the Fiefs of the Empire, becoming void by the Death of the last Male of the Family, or by Resignation; for tho' it is no Profit to his Imperial Majesty, because he gives all the Fees to his Officers, yet it shews his Grandeur, by so many great Princes paying him Homage, and receiving their Honours and Estates from his Bounty. The Ceremony of these Investitures are very sumptuous and magnificent, depending on the Pleasure of the Emperor, who does not always appoint the same Solemnity, but generally the first are the most splendid: His  
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Grandeur is also seen in the State and Number of his great Officers, among which I don't reckon the Hereditary Officers of the Empire, which are annex'd to the Dignities of the Electoral Princes, Ecclesiastical and Secular, or of their Hereditary and Perpetual Vicars, which were mentioned in another place, but only the great Officers of his Court, and such as are in ordinary Attendance. As the Great Master of the Emperor's Palace, the Great Chamberlain of his Household, the Great Marshal of the Court, the Great Master of the Horse, the Gentlemen of the Bed-chamber a Hundred in Number, all Counts and Barons of the Empire: The Great Master of the Hunt, and the Master Falconer, the Captain(s) of the Horse and Foot-Guards, Sixty or more Pages, for the Number is not limited, most of them Counts and Barons.

The Emperor has also near him three sorts of *Three sorts* Councils, besides the Council of the Court. First of *of Councils* the Privy-Council of State, consisting of a President, Twenty Counsellors, and Six Clerks. 2. The Council of the Chamber of Finances, or the Treasury-Chamber, where is concerted the ordinary and extraordinary Revenues of the Empire, and is composed of Two Presidents, a Director, Fourteen Assistants, and Six Secretaries 3. The Imperial Council of War, consisting of Two Presidents, which are Generals of the Army, Seven Counsellors, which are Marshals of the Camp, Major-Generals, Colonels, and the Auditor-General, with Registers, Secretaries, Commissaries, and others, of which Prince *Eugene* is at present chief President.

As for Example, the Emperor *Adolphus* of *Nassau* was deposed by the Princes Electors for Male-Administration, and engaging them in a needless War, to the effusion of much Christian Blood, and Desolation of the Empire. The Deposition



Examples  
of Deposi-  
tions.

position of the Emperor *Henry IV.* was no less exemplary, against whom it was alledged, that he sold the Investitures of Benefices, slighted the Advices of the native Princes of the Empire, and governed by the Counsel of Strangers and Mechanicks; that he had made Peace with the Enemies of the Empire, that he might more easily oppress his own Subjects, and make the Fortunes of his own Creatures, by ruining the Estates Ecclesiastical and Civil, for which, upon the Complaint of the People, the Pope excommunicated him, and that Excommunication was the cause that he languished to Death, and that his dead Body continued Five Years without a Grave.

The Third Example is the Deposition of the Emperor *Wenceslaus*, after he had reigned 22 Years, because he disturbed the Peace of the Church, dismember'd the Empire, sold the *Milaneze*, and other Provinces and Cities in the Kingdom of *Lombardy*, and had murder'd Men with his own Hands. These and many other Complaints being made to the Electors they assembled, and having found him unworthy to exercise the Imperial Authority, they deposed him by a formal Sentence, pronounced by *John Archbishop of Mentz*, in the following Words.

*We John Archbishop of the holy Church of Mentz, High Chancellor of the Sacred Roman and German Empire, &c. do make known to all Persons to whom these Presents shall come, that several wicked Actions being committed by the Lord Wenceslaus against the holy Church and Empire: We do in the Name of our Co-Electors and our own, hereby deprive and dispossess the said Lord Wenceslaus of all the Imperial Dignities, as bring an useless, negligent, wastful and unworthy Governor of the holy Roman Empire, declaring to all Princes, Lords, Knights, Nobles, Cities, Provinces and Subjects of the said holy Empire, that they are hereby discharged from the Homage and*

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*Oaths that they have taken to the Person of Wince-  
laus in the Name of the Empire, &c.*

The second College after that of the Electoral Princes, comprehends not only all the other Princes, whether Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Provosts, and other Prelatical Princes, but the Seculars also, as Dukes, Marquesses, Landgraves, Bargraves, and other Earls and Princes; together with the Abbots, Abbesses, and other Prelates and Counts immediately depending on the Empire and Emperor; and therefore I shall not only name all those that have at this Day the Rights of Session, and Voices Deliberative and Decisive in this College or general Assemblies, who contribute to the Necessities of the Empire, according to the Taxes in the Matriculation Book; also we find many Princes and Estates of the Empire, which are not in this Predicament, tho' their Names are in the Matriculate, as the Dukes of *Savoy* and *Lorraine*, who may assist at Imperial Diets, but contribute nothing to the Charge of the Empire, by virtue of some Privileges of Election. There are also others that carry the Titles of Princes of the Empire, that for a long time have had neither Seat nor Voice in the Assemblies, nor contribute any thing to the Empire; as the Archbishops of *Besancou* and *Cambray*, the Bishops of *Geneva*, *Ly-on*, *Lozan*, the Abbot of *St. Gall*, and other Prelates, and some Princes, Earls, and Secular Lords, which take not their Investitures from the Emperor. There are only Princes whose Fiefs immediately appertain to the Empire, and by Consequence ought to receive their Investitures from the Emperor; as the Dukes of *Milan* and *Mantua*; the Marquesses of *Monferras Final*, *Piombin*, and others; but are not liable to the Taxes of the Empire, because they are only *Fendatories*, and not Members of it: And the Secular

cular Princes that are *Cadets* of Great Families, tho' they bear the Titles of their Families, they pay no Taxes.

It's expected something should be said of the Pretensions of the House of *Savoy* to *Spain* upon this Occasion.

The Relation of the House of *Savoy* to the Branch of that of *Austria*, that became extinct in *Spain* by the Death of *Charles II.* in 1700. stands thus; *Charles Emanuel I.* Duke of *Savoy*, born in 1562. Married at *Sarragossa*, in 1582. The Infanta *Catherine Michelle* of *Austria*, Daughter of *Philip II.* of *Spain*, by *Elizabeth* of *France*, his second Wife, which *Philip* which was Great Grandfather in direct Male Line, of *Charles II.* above mention'd. The Son and Successor of *Charles Emanuel*, by *Catherine*, was *Victor Amadeus I.* who was the Father of *Charles Emanuel II.* who was succeeded in the Dutchy of *Savoy* by the present Duke *Victor Amadeus II.* in 1675. This Prince was born in 1666. and in 1684, Married the youngest Daughter of *Philip* Duke of *Orleans*, by *Henrietta Maria*, youngest Daughter of *Charles I.* King of *England*, and has five Children now living by her, viz. the Dutcheß of *Burgundy*, now Dauphiness of *France*, the Dutcheß of *Anjou*, or King *Philip III.* of *Spain's* Wife. The Prince of *Piedmont*, born in 1698. now about 13 Years Old; the Duke of *Aost*, born in 1701. and the Duke of *Chamlais*, born in 1705.

It has been a Notion generally receiv'd, as if by the second Treaty of Partition, mad in 1699. the Duke of *Savoy* and his Issue Male were to succeed Arch-Duke *Charles* in the Kingdom of *Spain*, in case this last died without Issue; but nothing of that appearing by the Treaty itself, but indeed quite the contrary by the Ninth Article, it's proper we should relate it here.



If the most Serene Arch-Duke happens to die without Issue, whether before or after the Death of the Catholick King [*Charles II.*]

The share that is always assign'd him by the sixth Article of Partition [which was *Spain*, the *Indies* and the *Netherlands*] shall pass to such Child of the Emperor *Leopold*, Male or Female, (except the King of the *Romans*) [by whom is meant the Emperor *Joseph*, now Deceas'd] to whom his Imperial Majesty shall think fit to assign it: And in Case his Imperial Majesty shall happen to Die before such Assignment, it may be made by the King of the *Romans*: But all this upon Condition that the said Partition shall never be reunited, nor belong to the Person of him who shall be Emperor or King of the *Romans*, or who shall be both the one and the other, either by Succession, Will, Contract, or Marriage, Donation, Exchange, Cession, Appeal, Revolt, or any other way: In like manner the Share of the most Serene Archduke shall never be united nor belong to the Person of him who shall be King of *France* or *Dauphin*, or both together, whether by Succession, Will, Contract of Marriage, Donation, exchange, Cession, Appeal, Revolt, or any other way whatsoever..

It does not appear that either of the two last Emperors made any disposal of the Crown of *Spain*, either by Will, or otherwise, pursuant to this Article, so that if any regard be to be had to the Succession of the *German* Branch of the House of *Austria* to the *Spanish* Dominions, the Emperor *Joseph*'s eldest Daughter, born in 1701. and near 10 Years of Age, if King *Charles*, for the sake of the Empire which is not likely, should quit, seems to have the fairest Pretensions.

It's very well known, that the Duke of *Savoy*, in the beginning of the present War, giving his second Daughter in Marriage to the Duke of *Anjou*, acknowledged in *Spain* by the Title of *Philip V.* sided with the two Crowns; but at the same time, viz. in 1703. that the Confederates agreed to set up Arch-Duke *Charles* for King of *Spain*, his Royal Highness of *Savoy* came over to the Grand Alliance, in Consideration of which, there were great Concessions made to him in *Italy*, and upon Recovering the *Milaneze* out of the *French* Hands, he was actually put into the Possession of the *Mantuan*, *Monferat*, *Alexandria*, &c. Nay common Fame went so far as if it had been stipulated by a solemn Treaty, that in Case King *Charles III.* should Die without Issue, his Royal Highness, and his Issue Male were to succeed him in all the *Spanish* Dominions, both within and without *Europe*; But of this and other Pretensions more may be said in another place.

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